

music of tambourine and double flute. Each new form of entertainment elicited applause. With each tankard a fresh stream of merriment rose toward the open roof, through which the odor of the flowers and the burning essences exhaled from ornamental altars found an exit. Already great pools of wine, poured out as libations to the gods, lay upon the polished floor; shouts had drowned the music and the songs—the cheerful feast had become an orgy.

Verus stimulated the silent and lazy guests to the enjoyment of mad pleasures, and gave to all unbridled license. He acknowledged every pledge—knew how to entertain the fair singer at his side—threw a sparkling jest into every silent group; and showed to the learned guests stretched upon divans not far removed, that he was interested in and only waited opportunity to share their conversation.

Alexandria, that meeting point of eastern and western cultivation, had seen other feasts than this riotous drinking-bout!

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The forgoing shows that eating and drinking are and ever have been closely related.

Liquids are multiplied by gastronomy.

But gastronomy follows only in its way the general development of a people.

Babbaric nations are satisfied with One beverage, cultivated possess a countless number.

The Romans at the time of their first dictator contented themselves with home-made beer and wine;