

of his affection ; his second was of blameless character, but from her also he was soon divorced. One of these two ladies, we know not which, belonged to the Etrurian tribe, whose chief town was Falerii (Santa Maria di Faleri). His third wife was of the noble Fabian family. To her he was deeply attached, and she remained fond and true to the last, supporting him by her faithful affection during the misfortunes which darkened the close of his life.

For a long period fortune had smiled steadily upon Ovid. He was now upwards of fifty years old ; the greater part of this time he had spent at Rome, in ease, tranquillity, and happiness. His time was completely at his own disposal, and he could devote what portion of it he pleased to his favourite pursuits ; his works were universally popular ; he was the companion and friend of all the great political and literary characters of that brilliant epoch ; he enjoyed the favour and patronage of the Emperor himself. But he was not destined to end his days in peace. Towards the end of A.D. 8 an order was suddenly conveyed to him from Augustus, commanding that he should instantly quit the metropolis, and fix his residence at Tomi, a colony planted among the Getae, in the midst of barbarous and hostile tribes, on the bleak shores of the Euxine, near the mouth of the Danube. To hear was to obey. Paralysed by grief, he tore himself from the arms of his afflicted wife, and set forth in the dead of winter for the place of his destination which he reached the following spring.

The cause of this banishment is a problem which has excited the curiosity and exercised the ingenuity of learned men ever since the revival of letters, but it is one which our present sources of knowledge do not enable us to solve. The ostensible reason was the immoral tendency of the *Ars Amatoria*, but the most probable is that he had become accidentally acquainted with some of the intrigues of Julia, the profligate granddaughter of the Emperor, whose well-known sensibility in all matters affecting the honour of his family rendered him unable to tolerate the presence of a man who had been an eye-witness to the infamy of one of its members.