

In all this 'the Monument' (as Shakespeare calls the Mausoleum which Cleopatra had built for herself and where she had stored her treasure) is apparently the scene, but the indications are very vague and any interior room in the Palace might serve the purpose.

The general course of the fifth Act is thus quite simple and might be anticipated. It is distinguished by the increased and continuous beauty of the verse, which makes representative selection difficult. Some fine passages have been already quoted, but I must not omit Alexas' description of jealousy when, speaking of Antony and Cleopatra, he says:—

His heart was never lost, but started off
To jealousy, love's last retreat and covert ;
Where it lies hid in shades, watchful in silence,
And list'ning for the sound that calls it back,...

(49 ff.)

nor the lament of Serapion after the treachery of the fleet:—

Egypt has been, our latest hour is come :
The queen of nations, from her ancient seat,
Is sunk for ever in the dark abyss :
Time has unroll'd her glories to the last,
And now clos'd up the volume,...

(71 ff.)

nor the lines spoken by Antony, after he has learnt of Cleopatra's supposed death, when he abandons the idea of farther resistance:—

Vent. Would you be taken ?

Ant. Yes, I would be taken ;

But, as a Roman ought,—dead, my Ventidius :