

meeting of Dido and Aeneas. It will be sufficient to say that Jason perceives her love at once and at this first conference proposes marriage to her. He flatters her and she has all the symptoms of the emotion of love in a tender heart. Two figures of speech that may recall "the pain at the back of the neck," are worthy of repetition. "The two stood facing each other without sound or word, like two oaks or lofty pines which stand side by side upon the mountains when the woods are still; but, lo! there comes a breath of wind, and sighs that none can number steal therefrom. Even so those two were soon to tell their tale before the breath of love." This borders on the humorous, but a few lines below is something worthy of a cheap humorist. "Forth from her fragrant girdle she drew the drug ungrudgingly, and joyfully he received it in his hands. And now she would have drawn her whole soul farth from her breast and given it to him at his desire eagerly."

It remains yet to speak of two features that come to the Aeneid from the Argonautica. When Jason and Medea had come to the land of the Phaeacians, they were overtaken by the Colchians in pursuit, and Alcinous said that if she were yet unwed, she should have to return to her father. So, by a stratagem of Arete, they were married in the famous grotto where Maeris had tended the infant Bacchus. Upon the ground was spread the golden fleece, which threw a blaze of golden light upon the nymphs, who brought sweet flowers in their bosoms. The heroes with their spears kept guard, and wreathing their heads with leafy boughs they sang a marriage hymn to the clear music of Orpheus. On the following day the people brought them gifts as they were wont to do to married folk and the nymphs sang in choros a joyous wedding hymn, and others sang alone as they circled round in the dance in honor of Hera.<sup>1</sup>

The marriage of Dido and Aeneas is told in four lines. Dido and the Trojan leader find their way to the same cave. Primeval Earth and Pronuba Juno give the signal. For torches they had lightning, and the guilty sky was all aflame, while from the mountain tops the nymphs did wail.<sup>2</sup>

The common elements are the cave and the nymphs. The situation in Apollonius is planned with an eye to the romantic, in Virgil with a view to depict the terrible. The day that should be one of joy, to them was the beginning of death and the cause of all her troubles. In Apollonius the cave was chosen for sentimental reasons and was not the result of necessity. In Virgil an extraordinary situation has been made to conform perfectly to

<sup>1</sup>Argon., III., 966. <sup>2</sup>Ib., 1012. <sup>3</sup>Argon., IV., 1139 ff. <sup>4</sup>Aen., IV., 166 ff.