The Classical Review

<http://journals.cambridge.org/CAR>

Additional services for *The Classical Review*:

Email alerts: [Click here](#)

Subscriptions: [Click here](#)

Commercial reprints: [Click here](#)

Terms of use : [Click here](#)

Note on Curtius VI. 4, 7

P. H. Damsté

The Classical Review / Volume 11 / Issue 01 / February 1897, pp 26 - 26

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00026007, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00026007

How to cite this article:

P. H. Damsté (1897). Note on Curtius VI. 4, 7. The Classical Review, 11, pp 26-26
doi:10.1017/S0009840X00026007

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

is due to the preceding *falsa*,—*e falso falsum*. (Unless, indeed, *adfecta* be regarded as the archaic form of *adfixa*: see Munro on *Lucr.* 3, 4: in either case, however, the contrast with *detracta* makes it reasonably certain

that we have to do with a participle of *adfigere* not of *adfigere*).

MORTIMER LAMSON EARLE.

Bryn Mawr College.

NOTE ON CURTIUS VI. 4, 7.

THE Ziobetis, a rapid mountain-stream, suddenly plunges into an abyss and, after a subterranean course of some forty miles, again emerges to the surface.

Being told by the natives, that all that is thrown into the chasm, where the water disappears, is given back by the stream at its reappearance,

Alexander *duos, qua subeunt aquae terram, praecipitari iubet, quorum corpora, ubi rursus erumpit, expulsa videre, qui missi erant, ut exciperent.*

This is the unanimous reading of the elder MSS.: only in the Florent. G, an interpolated one, someone has inserted *tauros* after *duos*, which ancient editors have adopted. Hedicke and Vogel however justly rejected it as lacking positive authority. Of late Kinch declared the interpolation justified.

Now let us put the question; what most likely was taken by Alexander as an object for his experiment? If living men, firstly Curtius would have added to *duos*, which is not definite enough in itself, such a word as *viros* or *incolas*: secondly, such a useless cruelty does not agree with Alexander's nature. Indeed for this reason ancient editors adopted the reading *tauros*. If not men, which were his victims? Animals of course,

as by the following *corpora* lifeless matters are at once excluded. What animals would he have sacrificed most probably? If bulls, some reference would have been given whence he got them. Little animals would not do, for they might have passed by unseen or have been caught by a rock. Now we are informed in § 3, that he came there *cum phalange et equitatu*. So the assumption is near at hand, that he took horses: should therefore *equos* be inserted after *duos*? No. Firstly, that manner of correcting is very arbitrary and far too often applied to Curtius by modern critics, and secondly, Alexander did not take two horses from elsewhere, but two of *his* horses; so *duos equorum* is the expression required.

Now let us read the passage again. Does not *quorum* strike us then as a pedantic addition, quite different from Curtius' rather easy and poetical style? It is clear that the men, who were sent to look for the reappearance of the bodies, saw the bodies of the horses—not of other animals emerge from the whirlpool. So I suggest:

Alexander *duos, qua subeunt aquae terram, praecipitari iubet equorum: corpora, ubi rursus erumpit, expulsa videre, qui missi erant, ut exciperent.*

P. H. DAMSTÉ.

LEIDEN, 1 December 1896.

NOTE ON JUVENAL SAT. X. 82 foll.

pallidulus mi
Bruttidius meus ad Martis fuit obuius aram.
quam timeo victus ne poenas exigat Aiax
ut male defensus!

No satisfactory explanation seems to have been found for this passage. After the death of Sejanus, every one (in mortal terror of informers) is doing his best by

word and deed to show his hatred of the fallen favourite, and so to conciliate Tiberius. And every one is afraid that something he has done, or has left undone, may be distorted into an appearance of disloyalty. What is the cause of the anxiety of Bruttidius the orator; and how does the wrath of Ajax come into the question?

Mayor, ad loc., says that "Sejanus is the