

HOMER AND THE ILIAD

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HOMER AND THE ILIAD

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BOOK XIII.



ARGUMENT.

*Neptune, in pity to the Greeks, despises
The Thunderer's ban, and mingles in the fray ;
Strong by such aid the Cretan captain rises,
And wears the bloody honours of the day.
Ajax well-armed the fateful moment prizes,
And from the ships drives Trojan brands away.
But Hector stands ; far spreads the blazing battle ;
Swords gleam, spears flash, shields clash, and helmets rattle.*

BOOK XIII.

THUS to the galleys of the Greeks Jove helped the foe ; but then
 The tug and toil of weary war to Hector and his men
 The Thunderer left, and from the fight his radiant eyne withdrew,
 And the horse-rearing Thracians' land with far-sent glance he
 knew,

And the close-fighting Mysians, and the Hippomolgian crew,
 On mare's milk fed, and the Abian race, of all the tribes of men
 Justest ; on these he looked, but far from Troy withheld his ken ;
 For none of the Immortals (thus he deemed) to mortal man,
 Trojan or Greek, would succour bring, spurning the Thunderer's ban.

But not the strong earth-shaking god like a blind watchman
 stood;

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He with far-sweeping look surveyed the battle and the blood,
 High seated on the topmost peak of woody Samothrace ;
 Thence lofty Ida filled his view, and all the famous place,
 Where rose the Greek masts, and the towers of Priam's lordly race ;
 There stood Poseidon, and beheld the sore-pressed Grecian clan,
 With pitiful ruth ; his heart abhorred the Thunderer's partial plan.