

spes tamen est fractis vicinae pacis in undis;
 tu¹ placidas toto² pectore finde vias!
 interea nanti,³ quoniam freta pervia non sunt,
 leniat invisas littera missa moras.

210

XX

ACONTIUS CYDIPPAE

PONE metum! nihil hic iterum iurabis amanti;
 promissam satis est te semel esse mihi.
 perlege! discedat sic corpore languor ab isto,
 quod meus est ulla parte dolere dolor!
 Quid pudor ante subit? nam, sicut in aede Dianae, 5
 suspicor ingenuas erubuisse genas.
 coniugium pactamque fidem, non crimina posco;
 debitus ut coniunx, non ut adulter amo.
 verba licet repetas, quae demptus ab arbore fetus
 pertulit ad castas me iaciente manus; 10
 invenies illic, id te spondere, quod opto
 te potius, virgo, quam meminisse deam.
 nunc quoque avemus idem, sed idem tamen acrius
 illud;
 adsumpsit vires auctaque flamma mora est,
 quique fuit numquam parvus, nunc tempore longo 15
 et spe, quam dederas tu mihi, crevit amor.

¹ tu PGω: tum Pa.

² toto PVω: tuto G₁s.

³ nanti s: nandi PG₁.

^a In the temple of Diana at Delos, Acontius threw before Cydippe an apple inscribed: "I swear by the sanctuary

waves means that peace is near; do you cleave their paths while placid with all your might! Meanwhile, since the billows will not let the swimmer come, let the letter that I send you soften the hated hours of delay.



XX

ACONTIUS TO CYDIPPE

LAY aside your fears! here you will give no second oath to your lover; that you have pledged yourself to me once is enough.^a Read to the end, and so may the languor leave that body of yours; that it feel pain in any part is pain to me!

⁵ Why do your blushes rise before you read?—for I suspect that, just as in the temple of Diana, your modest cheeks have reddened. It is wedlock with you that I ask, and the faith you pledged me, not a crime; as your destined husband, not as a deceiver, do I love. You may recall the words which the fruit I plucked from the tree and threw to you brought to your chaste hands; you will find that in them you promise me what I pray that you, maiden, rather than the goddess, will remember. I am still as desirous as ever, but my desire has grown keener than it was; for the flame of my love has waxed with being delayed, and taken on strength, and the passion that was never slight has now grown great, fed by long time and the hope that you had given. Hope you had given; my ardent

of Diana that I will wed Acontius," which she read aloud, thus inadvertently pledging herself.