

And that one with the nose deprest,<sup>1</sup> who close  
 In counsel seems with him of gentle look,<sup>2</sup>  
 Flying expired, withering the lily's flower.  
 Look there, how he doth knock against his breast.  
 The other ye behold, who for his cheek  
 Makes of one hand a couch, with frequent sighs.  
 They are the father and the father-in-law  
 Of Gallia's bane:<sup>3</sup> his vicious life they know  
 And foul; thence comes the grief that rends them thus.

"He, so robust of limb,<sup>4</sup> who measure keeps  
 In song with him of feature prominent,<sup>5</sup>  
 With every virtue bore his girdle braced.  
 And if that stripling,<sup>6</sup> who behind him sits,  
 King after him had lived, his virtue then  
 From vessel to like vessel had been pour'd;  
 Which may not of the other heirs be said.  
 By James and Frederick<sup>7</sup> his realms are held;  
 Neither the better heritage obtains.

<sup>1</sup> *That one with the nose deprest.*—Philip III. of France, father of Philip IV. He died in 1285, at Perpignan, in his retreat from Arragon.

<sup>2</sup> *Him of gentle look.*—Henry of Navarre, father of Jane, married to Philip IV. of France, whom Dante calls "mal di Francia"—"Gallia's bane."

<sup>3</sup> *Gallia's bane.*—G. Villani, lib. vii., cap. cxlvi., speaks with equal resentment of Philip IV.: "In 1291, on the night of the calends of May, Philip le Bel, King of France, by advice of Biccio and Musciatto Franzesi, ordered all the Italians, who were in his country and realm, to be seized, under pretence of seizing the money-lenders, but thus he caused the good merchants also to be seized and ransomed, for which he was much blamed and held in great abhorrence; and from thenceforth the realm of France fell evermore into degradation and decline. And it is observable, that between the taking of Acre and this seizure in France, the merchants of Florence received great damage and ruin of their property."

<sup>4</sup> *He, so robust of limb.*—Peter III., called the Great, King of Arragon, who died in 1285, leaving four sons, Alonzo, James, Frederick, and Peter. The two former succeeded him in the kingdom of Arragon, and Frederick in that of Sicily. See G. Vil-

lani, lib. vii., cap. cii.; and Mariana, lib. xiv., cap. 9. He is enumerated among the Provençal poets by Millot, "Histoire Littéraire des Troubadours," tom. iii., p. 150.

<sup>5</sup> *Him of feature prominent.*—"Dal maschio naso" ("with the masculine nose"). Charles I., King of Naples, Count of Anjou, and brother of St. Louis. He died in 1284. The annalist of Florence remarks that "there had been no sovereign of the house of France since the time of Charlemagne, by whom Charles was surpassed either in military renown and prowess, or in the loftiness of his understanding" (G. Villani, lib. vii., cap. xciv.). We shall, however, find many of his actions severely reprobated in the twentieth canto.

<sup>6</sup> *That stripling.*—Either (as the old commentators suppose) Alonzo III., King of Arragon, the eldest son of Peter III., who died in 1291, at the age of twenty-seven; or, according to Venturi, Peter, the youngest son. The former was a young prince of virtue, sufficient to have justified the eulogium and the hopes of Dante. See Mariana, lib. xiv., cap. 14.

<sup>7</sup> *By James and Frederick.*—See note to canto iii. 112.

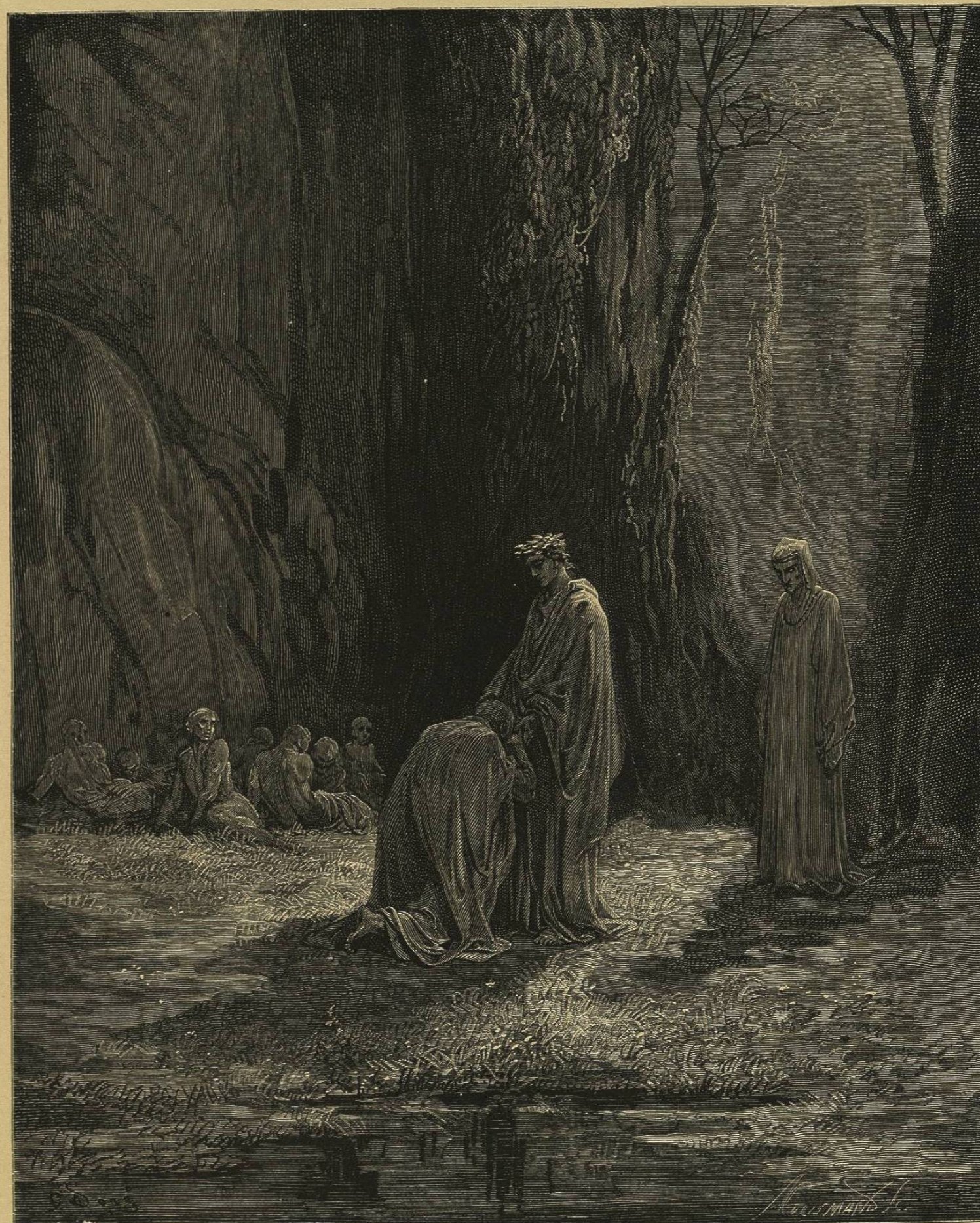




11

"Then remember me.  
I once was Pia."

*Canto V., lines 130, 131.*



12

"Through every orb  
Of that sad region," he replied, "thus far  
Am I arrived."

*Canto VII., lines 21-23.*



Rarely<sup>1</sup> into the branches of the tree  
 Doth human worth mount up: and so ordains  
 He who bestows it, that as his free gift  
 It may be call'd. To Charles<sup>2</sup> my words apply  
 No less than to his brother in the song;  
 Which Pouille and Provence now with grief confess.  
 So much that plant degenerates from its seed,  
 As, more than Beatrix and Margaret,  
 Costanza<sup>3</sup> still boasts of her valorous spouse.

"Behold the king of simple life and plain,  
 Harry of England<sup>4</sup> sitting there alone:  
 He through his branches better issue<sup>5</sup> spreads.  
 "That one, who, on the ground, beneath the rest,  
 Sits lowest, yet his gaze directs aloft,  
 Is William, that brave Marquis,<sup>6</sup> for whose cause,  
 The deed of Alexandria and his war  
 Makes Montferrat and Canavese weep."

<sup>1</sup> *Rarely*.—

"Full well can the wise poet of Florence,  
 That hight Dantes, speake in this sentence;  
 Lo! in such manner rime is Dantes tale.  
 Full selde upriseth by his branches smale  
 Prowesse of man, for God of his goodnesse  
 Woll that we claim of him our gentlenesse:  
 For of our elders may we nothing claime  
 But temporal thing, that men may hurt and  
 maime."

*Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Tale.*

Compare Homer, "Odyssey," b. ii., v. 276; Pindar, "Nem.," xi. 48; and Euripides, "Electra," 369.

<sup>2</sup> *To Charles*.—"Al Nasuto"—"Charles II., King of Naples, is no less inferior to his father Charles I. than James and Frederick to theirs, Peter III." See canto xx. 78, and "Paradise," canto xix. 125.

<sup>3</sup> *Costanza*.—Widow of Peter III. She has been already mentioned in the third canto, v. 112. By Beatrix and Margaret are probably meant two of the daughters of Raymond Berenger, Count of Provence; the latter married to St. Louis of France, the former to his brother Charles of Anjou, King of Naples. See "Paradise," canto vi. 135. Dante

therefore considers Peter as the most illustrious of the three monarchs.

<sup>4</sup> *Harry of England*.—Henry III. The contemporary annalist speaks of this king in similar terms. G. Villani, lib. v., cap. iv.: "From Richard was born Henry, who reigned after him, who was a plain man and of good faith, but of little courage." Fazio degli Uberti, "Dittamondo," l. iv., cap. xxv., where he gives the characters of our Norman kings, speaks less respectfully of Henry. Capitoli xxiii.—xxv., lib. iv. of this neglected poem appear to deserve the notice of our antiquarians.

<sup>5</sup> *Better issue*.—Edward I., of whose glory our poet was perhaps a witness, in his visit to England: "From the said Henry was born the good king Edward, who reigns in our times, who has done great things, whereof we shall make mention in due place."—G. Villani, *ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *William, that brave Marquis*.—William, Marquis of Montferrat, was treacherously seized by his own subjects, at Alessandria in Lombardi, A.D. 1290, and ended his life in prison. See G. Villani, lib. vii., cap. cxxxv. A war ensued between the people of Alessandria and those of Montferrat and the Canavese, now a part of Piedmont.