Aufidius.

Though thanks to all, must I select from all: the rest Shall bear the business in some other fight, As cause will be obeyed. Please you to march; And I shall quickly draw out my command, Which men are best inclined.

Cominius. March on, my fellows: Make good this ostentation, and you shall Divide in all with us.

[they march on]

[1.7.] Before the gates of Corioli

'TITUS LARTIUS, having set a guard upon Corioli, going with drum and trumpet toward COMINIUS and CAIUS MARCIUS, enters with a Lieutenant, other Soldiers, and a Scout'

Lartius. So, let the ports be guarded: keep your duties As I have set them down. If I do send, dispatch Those centuries to our aid; the rest will serve For a short holding. If we lose the field, We cannot keep the town.

Lieutenant. Fear not our care, sir.

Lartius. Hence, and shut your gates upon 's.

Our guider, come; to th' Roman camp conduct us.

[they march on

[1.8.] Near the Roman camp

'Alarum as in battle.' 'Enter MARCIUS and AUFIDIUS', from opposite sides

Marcius. I'll fight with none but thee, for I do hate thee
Worse than a promise-breaker.

CORIOLANUS

27

Not Afric owns a serpent I abhor More than thy fame and envy. Fix thy foot. Marcius. Let the first budger die the other's slave, And the gods doom him after! If I fly, Marcius, Ausidius. Holloa me like a hare. Within these three hours, Tullus, Marcius. Alone I fought in your Corioli walls, And made what work I pleased. 'Tis not my blood Wherein thou seest me masked. For thy revenge 10 Wrench up thy power to th' highest. Aufidius. Wert thou the Hector That was the whip of your bragged progeny, Thou shouldst not scape me here.

We hate alike:

'Here they fight, and certain Volsces come in the aid of Aufidius'

Officious, and not valiant, you have shamed me In your condemnéd seconds.

'Marcius fights till they be driven' away 'breathless'

[1.9.] 'Flourish. Alarum. A retreat is sounded.'
'Enter', from one side, 'COMINIUS with the Romans'; from
the other side, 'MARCIUS, with his arm in a scarf'

Cominius. If I should tell thee o'er this thy day's work, Thou't not believe thy deeds: but I'll report it Where senators shall mingle tears with smiles; Where great patricians shall attend, and shrug, I' th' end admire; where ladies shall be frighted, And, gladly quaked, hear more; where the dull tribunes, That with the fusty plebeians hate thine honours, Shall say against their hearts 'We thank the gods