Use of Arches known among the Ancients.

Finding that many artists imagine that the use of arches in building was unknown to the ancients, I send you the following most respectable testimonies, in confession of that opinion.

In the first place, this is evident from a very beautiful passage in the treatise Περὶ Κόσμου, or On the World, ascribed to Aristotle, and which, if not written by him, is acknowledged by all the learned to be of great antiquity. Proclus, in his Commentaries on the Timæus of Plato, cites it as a work which was believed long before his time to be the production of Aristotle, though it is not indubitably certain that he was the author of it. The passage is this: ὅπειρα δὲ ὄντως, εἰ καὶ μικρότερον, παραβάλλειν τὸν κόσμον ταῖς ἡμικύκλιοι κυκλοφόροις τοῖς ἐν ταῖς ψαλίδαις ἄθοις, δὲ μεῦνι καὶ μένην κατὰ τὴν εἰς διαπέτευσαν μέρος ἄθοις, ἐν ἀριστον πρώιτοι καὶ ἐν ταῖς τάξεων τὴς ψαλίδης καὶ ἐκλίνην. i.e. "The world indeed appears to resemble (though it is comparing a great thing with one that is small) what are called key-stones in arches of stone, which, being
situated in the middle of the pressure on each side, preserve the whole figure of the arch in harmony and order, and in an immovable position." And afterwards, he admirably observes, "that this is the relation which God has in the world, since he connects the harmony and preservation of the whole of things." Τούτων ὁ Θεός ἐν τῷ λόγῳ τῆς δόξης ἐν κόσμῳ, συνέχειαν τῶν ἁλῶν ἑρμούντως τε καὶ σωτηρίων. The other testimony is that of Seneca, who in his 90th Epistle says, that, though the invention of arches is ascribed to Democritus, yet it is necessary that prior to him there should have been bridges and gates, the summits of which are curved. His words are as follow: "Democritus, inquit, inventisse dicitur forsucem, ut lapidum curvatura paulatim inclinatorum medio saxo alligaretur. Hoc dicam falsum esse. Necessae est enim ante Democritum, et pontes et portas suisse, quarum fere summa curva.

T. TAYLOR.

On the death of Jerome Savonarola, (who was burnt alive in 1498, at Florence) by Giovanni Antonio Flaminio.

Dum fera flamma tuos, Hieronyme, pastur artus,
Religio, sacras dilaniata cosmas,
Flevit, et, O, dixit, crudelis, parsites, flammas;
Parsite, sunt isto viscosa nostra rogo.

Menage, having sent a Spanish Dictionary to a friend as a present, received in return a dozen of excellent Beauvoine wine. He immediately sent the following Epigram:

Lexicon Hispanicum tibi do; tu vascula bis sex
Belnensi gratis das mihi fist a mero.
Quod si nosse cupis munus praestantius utrum;
Quis dubitet? praestat munus, amice, tuum.
Unam quippe meo disces e munere linguam;
Omnibus at linguas per tua dona loquar.

In tumulum Laurentii Toscani.

Si Virtus, Pictaque morti, ac Prudentia possent,
Debeatant, Laurena, te moriente morte.