

TRIMALCHIO'S DINNER

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Trimalchio's dinner by Petronius Arbiter & Harry Thurston Peck

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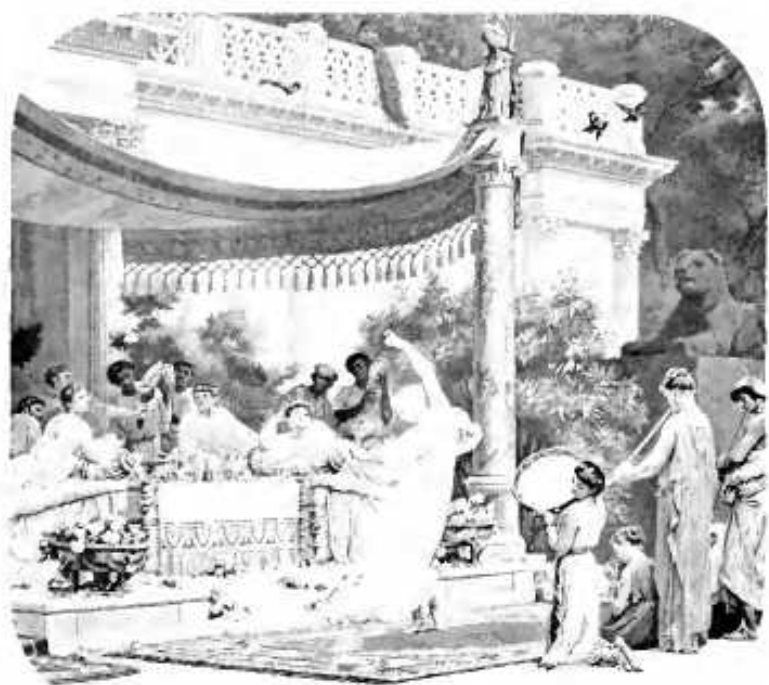
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PETRONIUS ARBITER & HARRY THURSTON PECK

TRIMALCHIO'S DINNER

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A ROMAN REVEL.

BY

PETRONIUS ARBITER

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL LATIN WITH
AN INTRODUCTION AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
APPENDIX

BY

HARRY THURSTON PECK

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FORMIS DESCRIPSERVNT WILSONES

Preface

IT is obvious that the ordinary canons of the translator's art cannot be applied to one who undertakes to render into English a production so absolutely unique as the *Cena Trimalchionis*. This curious fragment, containing as it does the most perfect specimens that we have of the so-called plebeian Latinity, — the idiom of the Roman rabble as distinct from the literary language of cultivated men, — is so filled with words and phrases that find no parallel elsewhere in existing Latin literature, and the conversation of the characters introduced in it is so coloured with *argot* and with slang, as to make anything like a literal translation quite impossible. I have endeavoured, therefore, to give in the English version a rendering