

Andrew Cyril Macdonald

TAUROMAQUIA I

A scrutiny of the etchings of Francisco Goya

i.

To assail a scourge:

noble diversion
vanity unleashes

when competes there
the fallible,

invalid.

ii.

Taunt and jest
make sad

reaction

as gallop pursues—

pace instinct
raucous

confers.

iii.

Mark and charge
besieges,

becomes enclave
game
anticipated

as set-upon
delivers,
bewails the crowd

with farce of
victory

the cleave crisp fells.

iv.

Grandiloquent form
maintains

what empires rich
convey:

faces as crowd
their rage

that beast and
slaughter

then manhood
applaud.

v.

Hoorays succeed with
end and terminus
the crowd contrives
as cold lance gone

makes heinous triumphant,
bold-faced in victory and
land-mark confusion—

what death is this not his
the crowd applauds him?