expression. We should accept Courtney’s tum⁴ (V’s exemplar may have written Athos et ingens, then inserted et pontus by mistake for tum pontus) and Pierson’s pavet, despite pavidas in 200. This avoids the adj. Thraca and also disposes of the tautology et pontus . . . et palus. But it does not account for the reading palus. We should perhaps postulate a lacuna, thus:

Thraca pavet . . .
... palus pariterque etc.

ii. 629–32

The poet is describing the site of Cyzicus.

terra sinu medio Pontum iacet inter et Hellen
ceu fundo prolata maris; namque improba caecis
intutil arva vadis longoque sub aequora dorso
litus agit.

631 sub MT: per S: om. V

Editors since Thilo have read per, which has slightly better MS. authority. The site of Cyzicus⁵ is variously described by ancient writers as a peninsula or an island. Valerius will have consulted Apollonius Rhodius rather than geographers. Apollonius (i. 936–9) calls it νῆσος, and describes it as:

εἰς ἡλα κεκλιμένη, δόσσον τ’ ἐπιμύρεται ἵσθμός
χέρσῳ ἐπιπηνής καταειμένος.

This submerging is considered by Valerius inconsiderate (improba), particularly, one imagines, to the pioneering Argonauts, since the then underwater ridge was invisible (caecis . . vadiς). The suitable preposition for it is sub with the accusative.

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AN UNSUSPECTED SOURCE IN SHAKESPEARE?

Whether ’tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them?

Hamlet III. 1.57.

Accepting the text of this famous passage as written above (suggested variants will be found in the New Variorum edition of H. H. Furness) one may ask whether one possible source of both language and thought has not been overlooked.

In Caesar's *Gallic War*, Book IV chapter 25, we read *atque inde fundis, sagitis, tormentis hostes propelli ac summoveri iussit*, 'and he ordered that from that position (of the Roman fleet) the enemy should be driven back and dislodged by means of slings, arrows, and catapults'.

The 'enemy' are the Britons and the occasion is Caesar's first invasion of Britain in 55 B.C.

Now it is highly probable that this is not the only passage in Latin literature in which slings and arrows are mentioned together; but it is a passage, surely, with which Shakespeare was familiar, and if he allied himself in thought with the Britons who were suffering these slings and arrows, coming from the sea as it were, it was but one further step in thought to imagine that 'sea of troubles' which lay behind them. He may of course, have read of that Celtic custom of 'opposing the sea' with arms described in Aelian's *Histories* (English translation 1576), but may he not also have thought of Caesar's legionaries jumping down into the surf?—trouble enough for the Britons i' faith.
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