

## BOOK XXXIII

1. BEFORE spring this year the Senate, after hearing the report of Publius Lentulus and his colleagues, who had just reached Rome from Asia, in the business of king Prusias, called in Athenaeus also, brother of Attalus. The matter, however, did not need many words: the Senate promptly appointed Gaius Claudius Cento, Lucius Hortensius, and Gaius Arunculeius, to accompany Athenaeus home, with instructions to prevent Prusias from waging war against Attalus.

Also Xeno of Aegium and Telecles of Tegea arrived as ambassadors from the Achaeans in behalf of the Achaean detenus. After the delivery of their speech, on the question being put to the vote, the Senators only refused the release of the accused persons by a very narrow majority. The man who really prevented the release from being carried was Aulus Postumius, who was praetor, and as such presided in the Senate on that occasion. Three alternatives were proposed — one for an absolute release, another for an absolute refusal, and a third for a postponement of the release for the present. The largest numbers were for the first of these three; but Postumius left out the third, and put the two first to the vote together, release or no release; the result was that those who were originally for the postponement transferred their votes to the party that were against the release, and thus gave a majority against release. . . .

3.<sup>1</sup> When the ambassadors returned to Achaia with the news

<sup>1</sup> Hultsch places an extract from Aulus Gellius (6, 14, 8) relating to the

that the restoration of all the detenus had been only lost in the Senate by a narrow majority, the people The Achaeans are becoming hopeful and elated sent Telecles of Megalopolis and Anaxidamus on a fresh mission encouraged to try again. at once. That was the state of things in the Peloponnese. . . .

4. Aristocrates, the general of the Rhodians, was in appearance a man of mark and striking ability; and the Rhodians, judging from this, believed that they had in him a thoroughly adequate leader and guide in the war.<sup>1</sup> But they were disappointed in their expectations: for when he came to the test of experience, like spurious coin when brought to the furnace, he was shown to be a man of quite a different sort. And this was proved by actual facts. . . .

Aristocrates proves a failure in the war with Crete.

5. [Demetrius] offered him five hundred talents if he would surrender Cyprus to him, with other similar advantages and honours from himself if he would do him this service. . . .

Archias, therefore, wishing to betray Cyprus to Demetrius, and being caught in the act and led off to stand his trial, hanged himself with one of the ropes of the awnings in the court. For it is a true proverb that led by their desires "the reckonings of the vain are vain." This man, for instance, imagining that he was going to get five hundred talents, lost what he had already, and his life into the bargain. . . .

6. About this time an unexpected misfortune befell the people of Priene. They had received a deposit of four hundred talents from Orophernes when he got possession of the kingdom; and subsequently when Ariarathes recovered his dominion he demanded the money of them. But they acted like honest men, in my opinion, in declaring that they would deliver it to no one as long as Orophernes was alive, except to the person who deposited it with them; while Ariarathes was thought by many to be committing a breach of equity in demanding a deposit made by another.

Honesty of the people of Priene (in Caria) in preserving the money deposited by Orophernes.

mission of the three philosophers as ch. 2 of this book. The substance is given in the note on p. 466. It is more in place there, as Polybius expressly said that he would give the whole story together (32, 25).

<sup>1</sup> This war appears to have arisen from a treacherous attack of the Cretans upon the island of Siphnos. *Exc. de Virt. et Vit.* p. 588.

However, up to this point, one might perhaps pardon his making the attempt, because he looked upon the money as belonging to his own kingdom; but to push his anger and imperious determination as much farther as he did seems utterly unjustifiable. At the period I refer to, then, he sent troops to pillage the territory of Priene, Attalus assisting and urging him on from the private grudge which he entertained towards the Prienians. After losing many slaves and cattle, some of them being slaughtered close to the city itself, the Prienians, unable to defend themselves, first sent an embassy to the Rhodians, and eventually appealed for protection to Rome. . . .

But he would not listen to the proposal. So it came about that the Prienians, who had great hopes from the possession of so large a sum of money, found themselves entirely disappointed. For they repaid Orophernes his deposit, and, thanks to this same deposit, were unjustly exposed to severe damage at the hands of Ariarathes. . . .

7. This year there came ambassadors also from the people of Marseilles, who had long been suffering from the Ligurians, and at that time were being closely invested by them, while their cities of Antipolis and Nicaea were also subjected to a siege. They, therefore, sent ambassadors to Rome to represent the state of things and beg for help. On their being admitted, the Senate decided to send legates to see personally what was going on, and to endeavour by persuasion to correct the injurious proceedings of the barbarians. . . .

*The peaceful mission failed, and the consul Opimius subdued the Oxybii, a Ligurian tribe, in arms, B.C. 154. Livy, Ep. 47.*

8. At the same time as the Senate despatched Opimius to the war with the Oxybii, Ptolemy the younger arrived at Rome; and being admitted to the Senate brought an accusation against his brother, laying on him the blame of the attack against his life. He showed the scars of his wounds, and speaking with all the bitterness which they seemed to suggest, moved his hearers

B.C. 155.  
The Ligurians  
harass Marseilles  
and besiege  
Antibes and Nice.

B.C. 154.  
Coss. Q. Opimius,  
L. Postumius  
Albinus.  
Ptolemy Physcon  
charges his  
brother with in-  
citing a plot  
against his life.

to pity him; and when Neolaidas and Andromachus also came on behalf of the elder Ptolemy, to answer the charges brought by his brother, the Senate refused even to listen to their pleas, having been entirely prepossessed by the accusations of the younger. They commanded them to leave Rome at once; while they assigned five commissioners to the younger, headed by Gnaeus Merula and Lucius Thermus, with a quinquereme for each commissioner, and ordered them to restore Ptolemy (Physcon) to Cyprus; and at the same time sent a circular to their allies in Greece and Asia, granting permission to them to assist in the restoration of Ptolemy. . . .

The Senate refuses to hear the ambassadors of Ptolemy Philometor, and send commissioners to restore Physcon to Cyprus.

9. When the commissioners under Hortensius and Arunculeius returned from Pergamum, and reported Prusias's disregard of the orders of the Senate; and how by an act of treachery he had besieged them and Attalus in Pergamum,<sup>1</sup> and had given rein to every kind of violence and lawlessness: the Senate, enraged and offended at what had happened, immediately appointed ten commissioners, headed by Lucius Anicius, Gaius Fannius, and Quintus Fabius Maximus, and sent them out with instructions to put an end to the war, and compel Prusias to indemnify Attalus for the injuries received by him during the war. . . .

Prusias having refused obedience to the former commission (see *supra*, ch. i.), a new commission is sent out with peremptory orders.

10. On the complaint of the ambassadors of Marseilles as to their injuries sustained at the hands of the Ligurians, the Senate at once appointed a commission, consisting of Flaminius, Popilius Laenas, and Lucius Pupius, who sailed with the envoys of Marseilles, and landed in the territory of the Oxybii at the town of Aegitna. The Ligurians, hearing that they were come to bid them raise the siege, descended upon them as they lay at anchor, and prevented the rest from disembarking; but finding Flaminius already disembarked and his baggage landed, they began by

The Ligurians prevent the commissioners from landing, and wound Flaminius who had already landed, and drive him to his ship.

<sup>1</sup> See 32, 27, note.

ordering him to leave the country, and on his refusal they began to plunder his baggage. His slaves and freedmen resisting this, and trying to prevent them, they began to use violence and attacked them with their weapons. When Flaminius came to the rescue of his men they wounded him, and killed two of his servants, and chased the rest down to their ship, so that Flaminius only escaped with his life by cutting away the hawsers and anchors. He was conveyed to Marseilles and his wound

War ordered with attended to with all possible care ; but when the the Oxybii and Senate was informed of the transaction, it immediately ordered one of the consuls, Quintus Deciatæ, B.C. 154. Opimius, to lead an army against the Oxybii and Deciatæ. <sup>1</sup>

11. Having collected his army at Placentia, Quintus Opimius orders Opimius marched over the Apennines and his soldiers to join arrived in the territory of the Oxybii ; and, pitching at Placentia, and ing his camp on the river Apro, awaited the marches into Gaul, enemy, being informed that they were mustering their forces and were eager to give him battle. Meanwhile, he advanced to Aegitna, where the ambassadors takes Aegitna, had been outraged, took the city by assault, and sold its inhabitants as slaves, sending the ringleaders in the outrage to Rome in chains. Having done this, he went to meet the enemy. The Oxybii, convinced that their violence to the ambassadors admitted of no terms being granted them, with all the courage of desperation, and excited to the highest pitch of furious enthusiasm, did not wait to be joined by the Deciatæ, but, having collected to the number of about and defeats the four thousand, rushed to the attack upon their Oxybii and enemy. Quintus was somewhat dismayed at Deciatæ. the boldness of their attack, and at the desperate fury of the barbarians ; but was encouraged by observing that the enemy were advancing in complete disorder, for he was an experienced soldier and a man of great natural sagacity. He therefore drew out his men, and, after a suitable harangue, advanced at a slow pace towards the enemy. His charge was delivered with great vigour : he quickly repulsed the enemy, killed a great many of them, and forced the rest into headlong flight. Meanwhile,

Ligurian tribes between Nice and Marseilles. Pliny, *N. H.* 3, § 47.

the Deciatæ had mustered their forces, and appeared on the ground intending to fight side by side with the Oxybii ; but finding themselves too late for the battle, they received the fugitives in their ranks, and after a short time charged the Romans with great fury and enthusiasm ; but being worsted in the engagement, they immediately all surrendered themselves and their city at discretion to the Romans. Having thus become masters of these tribes, Opimius delivered over their territory on the spot to the people of Marseilles, and for the future forced the Ligurians to give hostages at certain fixed intervals to the Marsilians. He then deprived the tribes that had fought with them of their arms, and divided his army among the cities there for the winter, and himself took up his winter quarters in the country. Thus the war had a conclusion as rapid as its commencement. . . .

Opimius winters in Gaul, B.C. 154-153.

12. All the previous winter Attalus had been busy collecting a large army, Ariarathes and Mithridates having sent him a force of cavalry and infantry, in accordance with the terms of their alliance with him. While he was still engaged in these preparations the ten commissioners arrived from Rome : who, after meeting and conferring with him about the business, started to visit Prusias, to whom on meeting him they explained the orders of the Senate in terms of serious warning. Prusias at once yielded to some of the injunctions, but refused to submit to the greater part. The Romans grew angry, renounced his friendship and alliance, and one and all started to return to Attalus. Thereupon Prusias repented ; followed them a certain distance with vehement entreaties ; but, failing to gain any concession, left them in a state of great doubt and embarrassment. The Romans, on their return to Attalus, bade him station himself with his army on his own frontier, and not to begin the war himself, but to provide for the security of the towns and villages in his territory : while they divided themselves, one party sailing home with all speed to announce to the Senate the disobedience of Prusias ; another

The commissioners visit Attalus and Prusias early in B.C. 154.

Prusias will not yield till too late.

The Romans promote a combination against Prusias.

departing for Ionia; and a third to the Hellespont and the ports about Byzantium, all with one and the same purpose, namely, to detach the inhabitants from friendship and alliance with Prusias, and to persuade them to adhere to Attalus and assist him to the best of their power. . . .

13. At the same time Athenaeus set sail with eighty Summer of B.C. decked ships, of which five were quadriremes  
154. Attalus's sent by the Rhodians for the Cretan war, twenty  
brother from Cyzicus, twenty-seven Attalus's own, and  
Athenaeus the rest contributed by the other allies. Having  
harasses the sailed to the Hellespont, and reached the cities  
coast of Prusias's kingdom. subject to Prusias, he made frequent descents  
upon the coast, and greatly harassed the country. But when  
the Senate heard the report of the commissioners who had  
returned from Prusias, they immediately despatched three  
new ones, Appius Claudius, Lucius Oppius, and Aulus Postu-  
tunius: who, on arriving in Asia, put an end to the war by  
bringing the two kings to make peace, on condition of Prusias  
at once handing over to Attalus twenty decked ships, and  
paying him five hundred talents in twenty years, both retaining  
the territory which they had at the commencement of the  
war. Farther, that Prusias should make good the damage  
done to the inhabitants of Methymna, Aegae, Cymae, Her-  
acleia, by a payment of a hundred talents to those towns.  
The treaty having been drawn out in writing on those terms,  
Attalus withdrew his army and navy to his own country. Such  
are the particulars of the events which took place in the  
quarrel between Attalus and Prusias. . . .

B.C. 153. 14. An embassy again coming to Rome from  
Another fruitless Achaia in behalf of the detenus, the Senate  
embassy from voted to make no change. . . .  
Achaia.

Heracleides 15. Heracleides came to Rome in the  
brings to Rome middle of summer, bringing Laodice and Alex-  
Laodice, daughter ander, and stayed there a long time, employing  
of Antiochus all the arts of cunning and corruption to win  
Epiphanes, and the support of the Senate. . . .  
his supposed son  
Alexander Balas,

Astymedes of Rhodes being appointed ambassador and

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