

BOOK VIII

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HISTORY OF ALEXANDER, VIII

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LIBER VIII

I. Alexander, maiore fama quam gloria in dicionem redacta petra, cum propter vagum hostem spargendae manus essent, in tres partes divisit exercitum. Hephaestionem uni, Coenon¹ alteri duces dederat, 2 ipse ceteris praecerat. Sed non eadem mens omnibus barbaris fuit; armis quidam subacti, plures ante certamen imperata fecerunt. Quibus eorum qui in defectione perseveraverant urbes agrosque iussit at- 3 tribui. At exsules Bactriani cum dccc Massagetarum equitibus proximos vicos vastaverunt. Ad quos coercendos Attinas, regionis eius praefectus, ccc equites insidiarum quae parabantur ignarus,² 4 eduxit. Namque hostis in silvis—et erant forte campo³ iunctae—armatum militem condidit, paucis propellentibus pecora, ut improvidum ad insidias 5 praeda perduceret. Itaque incomposito agmine solutisque ordinibus Attinas praedabundus sequebatur;

¹ Coenon *Aldus*; Cenon *A.*

² ignarus] *the frag. Herbipolitanum (H) begins with this word.*

³ et erant forte campo *P*; quae erant forte campo *B F corr. L corr. V*; et quae erant forte campo *F m. pr.*; equae et erant forte campo *L m. pr.*; et forte campo erant *H.*

BOOK VIII

I. ALEXANDER, having brought the rock under his sway with more fame than glory,^a divided the army into three parts, since the roving nature of the enemy made it necessary for him to spread his forces about.^b He gave the lead of one part to Hephaestion, of a second to Coenus, and he himself commanded the 2 third. But the barbarians were not all of the same mind; some were subdued by his arms, still more submitted without a contest. To the latter he ordered to be assigned the cities and lands of those 3 who had persisted in rebellion. But the Bactriani who had been dispossessed devastated, in company with 900 horsemen of the Massagetae, the neighbouring villages. To check them, Attinas,^c the governor of that region, led out 300 horsemen, being unaware of the ambuscade that was being laid. 4 For in the woods—and it chanced that they were close to a plain—the enemy hid an armed force, while a few drove flocks before them, in order that the hope of booty might lead Attinas unawares into the 5 snare. Accordingly he, marching in disorder and in loose formation, was following them, thinking only

^a Cf. Cic. *De Inv.* ii. 55. 166; *Pro Sest.* lxvi. 139; also ix. 10. 24, and note.

^b Cf. v. 13. 18; Arr. iv. 16. 3.

^c Otherwise unknown. With the whole account cf. Arr. iv. 16. 4 ff.

QUINTUS CURTIUS.

- quem praetergressum silvam qui in ea considerant ex improvise adorti, cum omnibus interemerunt.
- 6 Celeriter ad Craterum huius cladis fama perlata est, qui cum omni equitatu supervenit. Et Massagetæ quidem iam refugerant, Dahæ μ oppressi sunt; quorum clade totius regionis finita defectio est.
- 7 Alexander quoque, Sogdianis rursus subactis, Maracanda repetit. Ibi Derdas,¹ quem ad Scythas super Bosphorum colentes miserat, cum legatis gentis
- 8 occurrit. Phrataphernes quoque, qui Chorasmis² praeerat, Massagetis et Dahis regionum confinio adiunctus, miserat qui facturum imperata pollicerentur.
- 9 Scythæ petebant, ut regis sui filiam matrimonio sibi iungeret; si dedignaretur adfinitatem, principes Macedonum cum primoribus suae gentis conubio coire pateretur; ipsum quoque³ regem
- 10 venturum ad eum pollicebantur. Utraque legatione benigne audita, Hephaestionem et Artabazum operiens stativa habuit; quibus adiunctis, in regionem quae appellatur Bazaira pervenit.
- 11 Barbarae opulentiae in illis locis haud ulla sunt maiora indicia quam magnis nemoribus saltibusque
- 12 nobilium ferarum greges clusi. Spatiosas ad hoc eligunt silvas crebris perennium aquarum fontibus amoenas; muris nemora cinguntur turresque habent
- 13 venantium receptacula. Quattuor continuis aetibus intactum saltum fuisse constabat, cum⁴ Alex-

¹ Derdas *Hedicke*; berdes *AH*.

² Chorasmis *Rader*; Choras *A*.

³ regum (*before quoque*) *deleted by Lauer*.

⁴ cum *Hedicke*; quem *A*.

^a *Cf.* Arr. iv. 17. 1.

^b On *super* see vi. 2. 13, note.

^c *Cf.* Arr. iv. 15. 4. Perhaps the dwellers in Khiva.

of plunder ; but when he had passed by the woods, those who had taken post there suddenly attacked him and slew him with all his men.

- 6 The report of this disaster was quickly brought to Craterus, who came to the spot ^a with all his cavalry. The Massagetæ, for their part, had already fled, but 1000 of the Dahæ were slain, and by their slaughter
- 7 the rebellion of the whole region was ended. Alexander also, having again subdued the Sogdiani, returned to Maracanda. There Derdas, whom he had sent to the Scythians dwelling east of the Bosphorus,^b met him with envoys of that people.
- 8 Phrataphernes also, satrap of the Chorasmii,^c a neighbour to the Massagetæ and the Dahæ, had sent
- 9 messengers to promise his obedience. The Scythians asked that he should marry the daughter of their king ; if he considered her unworthy of the alliance, that he should suffer the leading men of the Macedonians to contract marriages with the great ladies of his race ^d ; they promised that the king himself
- 10 also would come to him. Both deputations were courteously heard and Alexander remained in camp for a few days, waiting for Hephaestion and Artabazus ; when they joined him, he passed into the district called Bazaira.^e
- 11 There are no greater indications of the wealth of the barbarians in those regions than their herds of noble wild beasts, confined in great woods and parks.
- 12 For this purpose they choose extensive forests made attractive by perennial springs ; they surround the woods with walls and have towers as stands for
- 13 the hunters. The forest was known to have been undisturbed for four successive generations, when

^a Cf. Arr. iv. 15. 2-3.

^e Near Samarcand ?

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