BOOK XLIX

The following is contained in the Forty-ninth of Dio's Rome:

How Caesar conquered Sextus and overthrew Legions (chaps. 1-18).

How Ventidius conquered and slew Pacorus and drove the Parthians across the Euphrates (chaps. 19-21).

How Antony was defeated by the Parthians (chaps. 22-23).

How Caesar subjugated the Fannianus (chaps. 24-25).

How Antony by galleys captured Artavasdes, the king of Armenia (chap. 26).

How the Fortics of Ptolemy were conquered (chap. 42).

How Mauretanians Chrestieniis fell to the Romans (chap. 45).

Duration of time, four years, in which there were the magistrates (consuls) here enumerated:

26 L. Cornulina L. F. Sextus Pompeius Sex. P.
33 Caesar (H), L. Volcinius L. F. Tullus.

All this happened in the winter in which Lucius M. Q. C. B.

Gellius and Cocecius Nerva became consuls. When the fleet had been made ready and spring had set in, Caesar set out from Baiae and coasted along Italy with great hopes of encompassing Sicily on all sides.

338
For he was sailing thither with many ships himself and those of Antony were already in the strait; also Lepidus had reluctantly promised to assist him. But his chief ground of confidence lay in the height of his vessels and the thickness of their timbers; they had been built unusually stout and unusually high, in order not only to carry the largest possible number of marines (in fact they had towers on them, in order that the men might fight from higher ground, as if from a wall), but also to withstand the attacks of the opposing vessels and at the same time bend back their beaks, since the violence of their collisions would be increased thereby.

With such plans Caesar was hastening to Sicily. As he was passing the promontory named Palmarus a great storm fell upon him; this destroyed many ships, and Menas, coming upon the rest while they were in confusion, burned or towed away many of them. And had he not again changed sides, on the promise of immunity and because of some other hopes, and betrayed the whole fleet that he commanded by receiving some tremens that simulated desertion, Caesar's voyage to Sicily on this occasion also would have proved fruitless. Menas acted as he did because he was not allowed by Sextus to fight against Lepidus and was under suspicion in all other ways. Caesar received him very gladly on this occasion also, but trusted him no longer. When he had repaired the damaged ships, freed the slaves that were serving on the triremes, and assigned the reserves (many of whom had escaped by jumping overboard when their vessels were destroyed in the wreck) to Antony's fleet, which was short of men, he
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

6 tiwos olygymoKoN KATETAXEIN, EI TEO LEITIarv \\
HAI, KAI .

2 Makowi \\
\\n2 LEXEN

3 TI WTEO \\

3 TEOI \\

2 PHANTAE

BOOK XLIX

came to Lipara; and leaving there Agrippa and the
ships, he returned to the mainland, in order to trans-
port the infantry also to Sicily, when an opportunity
should arise.

On learning of this Sextus himself remained at
anchor off Messana, waiting for Caesar to cross, but
he ordered Demochares to anchor opposite Agrippa
at Mylae. These two men spent most of the time
in testing each other's strength as opportunity
offered, but they did not dare to risk an engagement
with their entire armaments; for they were not ac-
quainted with each other's forces and on both sides
the reports that circulated about the opposing fleet
were exaggerated and made more fear-inspiring than
the reality. But finally Agrippa realized that it was
not disadvantageous for him to delay,—for the forces
of Sextus, lying as they did in home waters, had no
need of haste,—and so, taking the best of his ships,
he set out for Mylae to spy out the numbers of the
enemy. And when he found that he could not see
them all and that none of them wished to come out
into the open sea, he came to desist them, and on
his return made preparations to sail against Mylae
on the following day with all his ships. And De-
mocharies came to much the same conclusion; for he
had the idea that the ships which had approached
him were all alone, and seeing that they sailed very
slowly by reason of their size, he sent for Sextus by
night and proceeded to make preparations to attack
Lipara itself. When day broke, they were sailing
against each other, both sides expecting to meet

344

1 pho. 86, 8111. 8 iepemso, i.t 8.
3 ergos de dê geonoumen, kai pará dèdhen pollê pléon toux savantoeis ekatérwes ouv ònouto òsoun idôntai, tâ miux présta éxaraghth recipe ómws méi- teros, kai tiças kai práumâs ékroûmatos' épeita dé tâ phuguy tê miucx màllon fuvdabíntes, kai ouv miux toûthe kai præthias an éklápántes.7 en dé èkalei pasasùi2 apuleíaan pròstokraímen, ántephorímen kai sunmyizomen anavmikçmen. 2 hèsan dé ouv miux tê plêrê tôn neôn, ouv dé tâs ëmpereías tôn panteikwn prouphròkeitai, kai tâs miux tê te òfros tôn skaphôi kai tê pákhos tôn éksthelów ouv tê plêrê sýmmbròmon, tiçs dé ëtrômon ouv te diákûle anáphorès, prôs tê têr rûmyn tû tû toû Káisaros èpizóntas ouv têlma autôv autér- kai autômoiloi yar ouv plêous ex tîs Ítaliws. 3 étos apòmô pollê èkroûnto. kai toûto plenêstasontai te ëma allhlan kai elattô- mouw ouv òthoun, lepô têlma en toû toû èpizóntas amfio autêtôi ouv òhlou kai de toûto chôros kai òglamwma ex plêous ékroûnton èpîm. 4 ouv te ëmpy Sêxemou toûs miux miux ëmpy toûs ëntanwou têr rostrè èxenthrasan, kai tiças tâs, múrom tê sthia ëpisthromoutai kai tês paraxémiaves autôi ènpharphringiaves, èntrophi- saus, ïpô dé ouv têr tûrmon en tê prôz toux boulêmenou kai xerôn èpoulsou sîdhrôn prôs. 5 arômoumou ouv déllon ëkantov ouv òrnon èntezhín kai 1 ephebûs de òlêwntes Elc., othêrion ònlêwntes LM. 2 proctoi R. Steph., othôlêwntes LM (so in chap. 7, 3). 344

BOOK XLIX

inferior numbers. But when now they drew near a.c. 39 together and each force contrary to its expectation saw that its opponents were much more numerous than they had supposed, both alike were at first thrown into confusion, and some even backed water. Then, fearing flight more than battle, because in the one case they hoped they should prevail, whereas in the other they expected to be utterly destroyed, they sailed out to meet each other, and when they came to close quarters joined in battle. The one side surpassed in the number of its ships, the other in the experience of its sailors; one side was helped by the height of the vessels and the thickness of the oars, and also the towers, but these advantages were counterbalanced by the manoeuvring of the other side, and the superior strength of Caesar's marines was matched by the daring of those of Sextus, the majority of whom fought with great desperation inasmuch as they were deserters from Italy. Consequently, since each side had the points of superiority and likewise of inferiority that I have named with respect to the other, they found their total strength equal as the result of the even balance of their resources; and on this account they at last fought on even terms for a long time. The followers of Sextus alarmed their opponents by the way they dashed up the waves, and they also damaged some of their ships by assailing them with a rush and ripping open the parts that were beyond the banks of oars,9 but since they were assailed with missiles from the towers at the moment of attack and were brought alongside by grappling iron, they suffered no less harm than they inflicted. And Caesar's forces,
οί Καίσαρεοι ἐξ χέρων μὲν σφίσεω τήν τοῖς ναυσὶν μετεκινήσατο τοὺς πρὸς τὴν ἐγγετή ναῦσαν ἐν σφὶσει παρὰ ἐκ τῆς ἐλεύθερης ὅπως βαπτίζοντο, καὶ ἐξῆραν αὐτὰς μᾶλλον ἐκ τοῦ καλοῦ ναοῦ καὶ ἐκ τοῦ κοίλου ἑδονήν 6 στέι ἐπηδιομένωσι, ἀνετράπησαν ἠλατούμενον, καὶ δούλα ὧν τοῖς ναοῦς ἐκ τῆς καταλήψεως τῶν ἐκ- ρωτῶν ἀξίας ἀποθηκεύοντο τῇ τῶν ἐναυσίων βεβαιό- τητι καὶ ἡ τούτων βυθίως ἱσσυπασία τῇ ἐκείνους λεπτιτηγείν ἐγέρθη.

4 Ὁρᾶ τ' ὧν πετός καὶ πρὸς νῦκτο ἔβη οἱ τοῦ Καίσαρος ἐκράτησαν, οὐ μέντοι καὶ ἐπείδημαν τινα, ὡς μὲν ἐμοὶ δεδόμενοι καὶ τὸ εἰκός συμβαλ- λεται, ὅτι μήτε καταληφθησαν αὐτοῖς ἑδονήν, καὶ ἐκ τῆς βίης, βρίσκεται ὅπως ἢ περὶ ἔτοιμος ἄκομα ἐρχόμεθα, ἐποιήθησαν ἐξελέγεταν ὡς ἐκ τούτων ἐλέγουσι, ὁ Ἀγρίππας, διὸ καὶ ὅτι τοῦ Καίσαρος ἄλλ' ὅσον ὥστε ἄναυτον μαχόμεσθαι, ἐκατέβασιν οἱ τὸ τρέψαν 2 τοὺς ὕπατους ἤρρητα. καὶ γάρ εἶσθε ἐν μέρει πρὸς τοὺς τῶν ἄτομον ἐπιρρόω ὅτι οἱ πλοῖσι τῶν ἐν ταῖς ἐναυσίαις ὄστων ὀδύναν ἰδον ἔχετε κρίττων 1 σφίων εἰςαι, ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν 'πλέον, ὡς γα καὶ πρόχεριν τῆς κόψης ἐχει, οὕτως ὡς ἓν ἀναμνήσιστον, τὰ δὲ δὴ χρόνο καὶ ἀποστάσεα ἄλ- 3 λοις προστιτυπερει. καὶ ἂν ἀρα ποτὲ τῶν ἀμέσω- νων τι ἀναγεννηθεὶς σφίων ἐπιτρέψῃ, βαρύνω- ται τὸ καὶ ἑξάθλησι τῆς εὐδοκίας αὐτῶν ὅτε παρῴαν μέγαρ σφίων καὶ κακῶς πρόστιμοι ὧν σκέψωται, οὐ μέντοι καὶ παντελῶς τὸ καταστρέφεται τὴν 4 δόξαν αὐτῶν λαβῶν αἰροῦσιν. δεδομένω τῶν ἀνὰ τῶν σωθήματος τῆς μὲν ὄντος ἑστή- 1 κρίκτων Χιρῆ., κρίκτων Λαμ.
alive should relieve his masters of undertakings which involve great difficulty and reserve for them the successes. As for me, I know that all this is naturally so and that Agrippa paid heed to these principles, but I am not saying that on that particular occasion this was the reason for his failure to pursue; for he would not have been able to catch up with the foe no matter how much he might have desired it.

While the naval battle was in progress, Cæsar, as soon as he perceived that Sextus had departed from Messana and that the strait was instituted of a garrison, did not let slip this “chance of war,” but immediately embarked on Antony’s vessels and crossed over to Tauromenium; however, he enjoyed no good fortune in doing so. No one, to be sure, interfered with his sailing or his disembarking, and he was quite undisturbed in general and also when he made his camp; but when the naval battle was over, Sextus came with all speed to Messana, and learning of Caesar’s presence he quickly filled his ships with fresh troops and attacked him at one and the same time with this fleet and with his heavy-armed troops on land. Caesar did not even come out to fight the infantry, but sailing out against Sextus, because he despised the enemy’s fleet with its small number of vessels and because they had been previously defeated, he lost the greater part of his fleet and barely avoided destruction himself. Indeed, he could not even escape to his own men in Sicily, but was glad to reach the mainland in safety. And though he himself was then in security, yet when he saw his army cut off on the island, he was terribly distressed. His confidence was not restored until a

1 An expression borrowed from Thucydides (iii. 39).
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

fish of its own accord leaped out of the sea and fell at his feet; this incident gave him courage once more, for he believed the soothsayers who told him that he should make the sea his slave.

Caesar, now, was sending urgent messages to Agrippa to come to the aid of his soldiers in Sicily, and these troops meanwhile were being besieged. And when their provisions began to fail them and no rescuing force appeared, Cornelius, their leader, because afraid that if he stayed where he was he should in the course of time be compelled by hunger to yield to his besiegers; and he reflected that while he tarried there in that same spot none of the enemy would join issue with him, because he was superior in heavy-armed troops, but if he should leave his camp in any direction one of two things would happen—either he would overpower the enemy, if they joined battle with him, or, if they declined battle, he would retire to a place of safety, get a supply of provisions, and obtain some help from Caesar or from Agrippa. Therefore he burned all the vessels that had been left over from the sea-fight and had been cast up beside the extremestems, and set out as if to proceed to Mylai. Both cavalry and light-armed troops attacked him from a distance, not daring to come to close quarters, and proved exceedingly troublesome to him; for they would not only attack whenever opportunity offered but would also quickly retreat again, whereas his men, being heavy-armed, could not pursue them in any case owing to the weight of their armour, and moreover were endeavouring to protect the unarmed men who had been saved from the fleet. Consequently they were

BOOK XLIX
The Complete Text can be found on our CD: 
**Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature**
which can be purchased on our Website:


or

by sending $64.95 in check or money order to:

**Brainfly Inc.**
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento  CA  95841-3839

**TEACHER’S DISCOUNT:**
If you are a TEACHER you can take advantage of our teacher’s
discount. Click on Teachers Discount on our website
(www.Brainfly.net) or **Send us $55.95** and we will send you a full copy
of **Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature AND our**
**5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of litera-
ture in electronic format (.txt)) plus our Wholesale price list.**

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see
added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list
please send us an email to:

[webcomments@brainfly.net](mailto:webcomments@brainfly.net)