DIO'S
ROMAN HISTORY
WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
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ON THE BASIS OF THE VERSION OF
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IN NINE VOLUMES
VIII

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DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY
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EPITOME OF BOOK LXI

In the following year, which was the eight A.D. 17
hundredth year of Rome, Claudius became consul for
the fourth and Lucius Vitellius for the third time.
Claudius now expelled from the senate certain of its
members, most of whom were not sorry to drop out,
but willingly resigned on account of their poverty;
and he likewise introduced many new men in their
place. And when a certain Sordinus Gallus, who
was eligible to serve as a senator, emigrated to
Carthage, Claudius summoned him back in haste,
decrying he would bind him with golden fetters;
thus Gallus, fettered by his rank, remained at home.
Although Claudius visited dire punishment upon the
freemen of others, in case he caught them in any
wrong-doing, he was very lenient with his own,
as the following incident will show. Once when an
actor in the theatre recited the well-known line,
“A prosperous whipstock scarce can be endured,”
and the whole assemblage thereupon looked at Poly-
bius, the emperor’s freedman, the latter shouted out:
“Yes, but the same poet said:
‘Who once were goatherds now have royal power.’”
Yet Claudius did him no harm. Information was

1 Suet. Vitt., v. 116. The other line (Adespora
487 Rook) is not found in any extant play.

u 2 3
given that some persons were plotting against Claudioi, but he paid no attention to most of them, saying: “It doesn’t do to take the same measures against a flea as against a wild beast.” Claudioi, however, was tried before him and came very near being acquitted. For he entered a general denial, declaring, “I have no knowledge of nor acquaintance with any of these persons who are testifying against me;” and when the soldier who declared that he had been associated with him, upon being asked to identify Claudioi, pointed out a baldheaded man who claimed to be standing near him,—for baldness was the only distinguishing mark about Asiaticus of which he was sure,—and a great burst of laughter arose at this, and Claudioi was on the point of freeing Asiaticus, Vitellius made the statement, as a favour to Messalina, that the prisoner had sent for him in order to choose the manner of his death. Upon hearing this Claudioi believed that Asiaticus had really condemned himself by reason of a guilty conscience, and he accordingly put him out of the way.

Among many others whom he put to death upon false charges brought by Messalina were Asiaticus and also Magnus, his own son-in-law. The former lost his life because of his property, and the latter because of his family and his relationship to the emperor.1 Nominaliy, however, they were convicted on other charges.

This year a small irritant, hitherto unknown, made its appearance close to the island of Thera. Claudioi, the king of the Romans, promulgated a law to the effect that no senator might travel more

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1 See lv. 5.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

σημείων τὴς πόλεως οἶκείων χωρὶς τῆς τοῦ βασιλέως κελεύσεως.—Suid. s.v. Κλαύδιος, s.v.2.
7 Ἐσπαθή τε πολλαὶ διαλογὶς ἀρρωστοῦται οἰκείοις τῆς τοῦ βασιλέως κελεύσεως ἡμὸν ἄλλα καὶ ἐκ τῶν κελευθεροῦμένων σώζουσιν ἐξανάγγελτον τὸν τῶν τοιούτων περιγραμμάτων ἔλεγχον ἐκεῖνος.—Xiph. 142, 26–29 R. St. (Zon., Suid.).
8 Ἀπαντώντας δὲ καὶ τὸ καθήμενον τινὰ ἐκ τούτου ἀρματος δὲ τὴς πόλεως διαλογιζόμενος.—Suid. s.v. Κλαύδιος, s.v. 2.

9 Ἡδὲ τῇ Βρετανίᾳ περιστασιών ἡ δὲ τὸ τοῦ βασιλέως ἄναξ ἀντιληλαμβάνεται τὴν εὐθραυστικὴν ἀλλὰ καὶ καθαρὰν ἀρχήν ἅπασαν τῆς πολιτείας καὶ τούτων αὐτῶν πολεμικῆς τέχνης ἅμα τῷ πολεμικῷ ἀλληλεπιδράσεως 2 σφαῖρας ἄφθονος ἔφθασεν. ἐκ τοῦ τοῦ Πλιανίου νεκροῦ βασιλέως, ὡς καὶ καθότι αὐτὸν σηκώσαν ἁπάντως καὶ ἀποτράπασαν καὶ ἐπηρεάσαν ἐπὶ τοῦ πολιτείαν καὶ ἐπερήμασαν.—Xiph. 142, 29–145, 3 R. St.

3 ἦν δὲ τῇ Βρετανίᾳ περιστασιών ἡ δὲ τῷ βασιλεῖ ἀνεξάρτητος ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἀνδρῶν τῆς πολιτείας τοῦ ἀντιληλαμβανόμενου πολεμικῆς τέχνης καὶ τούτων τῶν ἀλλών πολιτείας ἀλλού τε καὶ οὗτοι ἐκάλουσιν ἅπαντα ἀρχῆς ἡ δὲ τοῦ πολεμιῶν

EPITOME OF BOOK LXI

than seven “markers”1 from the City without the 1.0, 67 king’s orders.

Since many masters refused to care for their slaves when sick, and even drove them out of their houses, he enacted a law that all slaves who survived such treatment shall be free.

He also forbade anybody to drive through the City2 seated in a vehicle.

In Britain Vespasian had on a certain occasion been hemmed in by the barbarians and been in danger of destruction, but his son Titus, becoming alarmed for his father, managed by unusual daring to break through their enclosing lines and then pursued and destroyed the fecling enemy.3 Phoebus for his skilful and successful conduct of the war in Britain not only was praised by Claudius but also obtained an ovation.

In the gladiatorial combat many persons took part, not only of the foreign freemen but also the British captives. He used up over so many men in this part of the spectacle and took pride in the fact.

Gnaeus Domitius Corbulo while commanding in Germany concentrated his legions and harassed among other barbarians the Cauchi, as they were called. While in the midst of the enemy’s territory 1 A mile, according to Monninus (Stoiber, 3, p. 912, 1), though the use of σῆμασιν in St Bernar is not paralleled elsewhere. Another interpretation is “more than seven miles,” taking σήμασιν in the sense of milestones.

2 A comparison of Suet. Civ. 25 makes it probable that Dio wrote “cities,” referring to all the Italian towns.

3 As Titus was born in the year 29 (cf. lxi, 18, 4), there is manifestly some error here, probably on Xiphænus’ part. Boeckh suggests that Dio in his fuller narrative may have inserted at this point the statement that in the Judaeus campaign his life was once saved by Titus.
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