EPITOME OF BOOK LXXVI

LXXV  Τοῦ δὲ Σεονίρρου πόλεμος αὕτης, μὴτοὶ ἕκ τῶν 4. 1 ἑβαρβαρικῶν ἀπανεύρασατο, ἐμφύλιος πρὸς τὸν Ἀλβίνον τὸν Καίσαρα συννεχθη. ὁ μὲν γὰρ οὐδὲ τὴν τοῦ Καίσαρος αὐτῶ ἐτὶ ἐξάκουσα τιμῆν, ἐπειδὴ τὸν Νιργον ἐκποδῶν ἐποιήσατο, τα ἀλλα τὰ ἐνταῦθα ὡς ἐβουλευτο κατεστήσατο, ὁ δὲ καὶ τὴν τοῦ αὐτοκράτορος ἐξῆτε ὑπεροχὴν.

2 συγκινομένης οὖν διὰ ταύτα τῆς οἰκουμένης ἡμέως μὲν οἱ βουλευται ἡσυχίαν ἤγομεν, ὥσι μὴ πρὸσ τοῦτον ἢ ἐκείνον φανερῶς ἀποκλίναντες ἐκοινώνονσαν σφήσι καὶ τῶν κυνικῶν καὶ τῶν ἐπίτιδων, ὁ δὲ δῆμος οὐκ ἐκατέργησεν ἀλλὰ ἐκφανεστάτα κατοδύσατο. ἢν μὲν γὰρ ἡ τελευταία πρὸ τῶν Κορωνίων ἵπποδρομία, καὶ συνέδραμεν εἰς αὐτὴν ἢ ἀπλεῖτο τὸ χρῆμα ἀνθρώπων.

3 παρὰ δὲ καὶ ἐγὼ τῇ θέσι διὰ τὸν ὑπατον φίλον μου ὄντα, καὶ πάντα τὰ λεγήσατο ἀκριβῶς ἥκουσα, ὥσιν καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς τοῖς ἕξυσμίην ἐγένετο δὲ ὅδε. συνήλθον μὲν ὡσπέρ εἶπον ἀμιθητοι, καὶ τὰ ἀρματα ἑχαχος ἀμιλλώμενα ἐθέασαντο, ὅπερ ποι γὰρ ἐπὶ τοῦ Κλεάνδρου ἐγεγονεῖ, μὴ δὲν ὅπερ παράμεναν ἐπαινεσάντες, ὃ περ εἴδοσαν. ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἐκείνοι τε οἱ δρόμοι ἐπαύσαντο καὶ ἔμελλον οἱ ἡνίοχοι ἐτέρου ἀρ-

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BEFORE Severus had recovered from his conflicts A.D. 196 with the barbarians he was involved in civil war with Albinus, his Caesar. For Severus would no longer give him even the rank of Caesar, now that he had got Niger out of the way and had settled other matters in that part of the world to his satisfaction; whereas Albinus aspired even to the pre-eminence of emperor. While, then, the entire world was disturbed by this situation, we senators remained quiet, at least as many of us as did not, by openly inclining to the one or the other, share their dangers and their hopes. The populace, however, could not restrain itself, but indulged in the most open laments. It was at the last horse-race before the Saturnalia, and a countless throng of people flocked to it. I, too, was present at the spectacle, since the consul was a friend of mine, and I heard distinctly everything that was said, so that I was in a position to write something about it. It came about on this wise. There had assembled, as I said, an untold multitude and they had watched the chariots racing, six at a time (which had been the practice also in Cleander's day), without applauding, as was their custom, any of the contestants at all. But when these races were over and the charioteers were about to begin another

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1 μήτω Steph., μήτως V, μήτης C.
2 αὐτὴ Leuncl., αὐτὴ VC.
3 Κλεάνδρου C, κλεάρχου V.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

εσσαθα, ένταθα ἡδη συγάσατες Ἀλληλους ἐξαίφης τής τε χειράς πάντες ἀμα συνεκρότησαν καὶ προσεπέβοσαν, εὐμυχαίαν τῇ τοῦ ὄχυμα δυνατία αὐτοῦμεν. έιπόν τε τοῦτο, καὶ μετὰ τοῦτο τῆς ῥώμης καὶ βασιλίδα καὶ ἀδάντων ὑπομάσατες "μέχρι πότε τοιαύτα πάσχοντες;" ἐκραίναν "καὶ μέχρι ποῦ πολεμοῦμεθα; εἰπόνες δὲ καὶ ἀλλα τινα τοιαύτα τέλος ἐξεδόθη σαν ὁτι "ταῦτα ἐστιν," καὶ πρὸς τὸν ἀγώνα τὸν ἰππών ἐτράπωντο. οὕτω μὲν ἐκ τινος θείας ἡπτυνοίας ἐνεθυνάσαν οὗ γὰρ ἀν ἄλλος τοσαύτας μυριάδες ἄνθρωπων οὕτε ἢρξαντο τὰ αὐτὰ ἀμα ἀναβοάν ὦστερ τὶς ἀκριβῶς χρόνος δεδιδαγμένος, οὐτέ ἐιπόν αὐτά ἀπταίτως ὡς καὶ μεμελετημένα. ταῦτα τε οὖν ἐτι καὶ μάλλον ἡμᾶς ἔταραττε, καὶ πῦρ αἰφνιδίων νυκτός ἐν τῷ ἁμέρι τῷ πρός βορράν τοσοῦτον ὠθηθ ὡςτε τοὺς μὲν τὴν πύλην ὄλιν τοὺς δὲ καὶ τὸν ὑμαῖον

6 αὐτὸν καῖσθαι δοκεί. ὁ δὲ μάλιστα ἴσχυς ἐξω, ψεκάς ἐν αἴθρια ἀργυροειδῆς ἐς τὴν τοῦ Ἀγούστου ἀγοράν κατερρύη. φερομένην μὲν γὰρ αὐτὴν σφακίδος πεσόναις δὲ αὐτὴς ἐσθομένης, καὶ κέρματα τινα ἀπ’ αὐτῆς καλλὰ κατηγορώσα, ὁ καὶ ἐπὶ τρεῖς ἡμέρας τὴν αὐτὴν ὅψτιν ἔχει τῇ γάρ τετάρτῃ πᾶν τὸ ἐπάλειφθεν αὐτοῖς ἠφαίνετόβ.

Νυμεριανὸς δὲ τις γραμματιστὴς τῶν τὰ παίδων γράμματα διδασκόντων, ἐκ τῆς Ῥώμης ἐς τὴν Γαλατίαν, οὐκ οἶδ’ ὅ τι δόξαν αὐτῷ, ἀφορμηθεὶς, βουλευτῆς τε εἶναι τὸν Ῥωμαίων πλασάμενος καὶ ἐπὶ στρατιάς ἀθροισιν ὑπὸ τοῦ

1 συγάσατες Reim., συγάσατες VC.

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event, they first enjoined silence upon one another A.D. 196 and then suddenly all clapped their hands at the same moment and also joined in a shout, praying for good fortune for the public welfare. This was what they first cried out; then, applying the terms "Queen" and "Immortal" to Rome, they shouted: "How long are we to suffer such things?" and "How long are we to be waging war?" And after making some other remarks of this kind, they finally shouted, "So much for that," and turned their attention to the horse-race. In all this they were surely moved by some divine inspiration; for in no other way could so many myriads of men have begun to utter the same shouts at the same time, like a carefully trained chorus, or have spoken the words without a mistake, just as if they had practised them. This demonstration was one thing that increased our apprehensions still more; another was the sudden appearance of such a great fire in the northern sky at night that some supposed the whole city was burning, and others that the very sky was afire. But what I marvelled at most was this: a fine rain resembling silver descended from a clear sky upon the Forum of Augustus. I did not, it is true, see it as it was falling, but noticed it after it had fallen, and by means of it I plated some bronze coins with silver; they retained the same appearance for three days, but by the fourth day all the substance rubbed on them had disappeared.

Numerianus, a schoolmaster who taught children their letters, set out from Rome for Gaul for some reason or other, and by pretending to be a Roman senator sent by Severus to raise an army, he col-
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Σεούηρον πεμφθήναι, συνήγαγε τινα βραγείαν πρώτον ἵσχυν, καὶ τιςας τῶν τοῦ Ἀλβίνου ἱππέων διεθήρε, καὶ ἄλλα τινά υπέρ τοῦ

2 Σεούηρον ἔνεαντισάτο. ἄκουσας δὲ ὁ Σεούηρος, καὶ νομίσας ὅτις τῶν βουλευτῶν εἶναι, ἐπεστειλεν ἐπαίνον τε αὐτόν καὶ ὄνυμαν κελεύων πλείονα προσλαβέων καὶ ὅς λαβὼν πλείονα δύναμιν ἄλλα τε βανμαστὰ ἐπεδείξατο, καὶ χιλίας καὶ ἐπτακοσίας καὶ πεντήκοντα μυριάδας

3 δραχμῶν ἐλών τῷ Σεούηρῳ ἐπεμψε. νυκήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Σεούηρου πρὸς αὐτὸν ἔλθων οὖτ'. ἄπεκρυψατο τι οὗτ' ὕτησαν ὡς ἁληθῶς βουλευτῆς γενέσθαι, καὶ τιμαῖς μεγάλαις πλούτῳ τε ἂν αὐξηθῆναι δυνηθεῖς οὐκ ἤδελησεν, ἄλλ' ἐν ἄγρῳ τινὶ, σμικρὰν τι ἐφ' ἡμέραν λαμβάνων παρ' αὐτοῦ, διεβίω.

6 'Ο δὲ δὴ ἄγων τῷ τοῦ Σεούηρῳ καὶ τῷ Ἀλβίνῳ ἡμέρᾳ πρὸς τῷ Δουγνόσιον τοιόσδε ἐγένετο, πεντεκαίδεκα μὲν μυριάδες στρατιωτῶν συναμφότεροι ύπήρχον, παρῆσαν δὲ καὶ ἀμφότεροι τῷ πολέμῳ ἀτε περὶ ψυχῆς θέουτες, καὶ τοῦ Σεούηρου

2 μυδεμία πτω μάχη ἔτερα παραγεγονότος. ἢν δὲ ὁ μὲν Ἀλβίνος καὶ τῷ γενέας καὶ τῇ παιδείᾳ προίκων, ἄτερος δὲ τὰ πολέμων κρείττων καὶ δεινῶν στρατηγήσας, συνέβη δὲ τῶν Ἀλβίνου προτέρα μάχη νυκήσαι τῶν Δουγνόων τῶν τοῦ Σεούηρου στρατηγῶν ὄντα, καὶ πολλοὺς τῶν συν αὐτὸν διαφθείραι στρατιῶτας, ἢ δὲ τότε ἄγων

3 πολλάς ἑσεχεν ιδέας τε καὶ τροπάς, τὸ μὲν γὰρ λαιῶν κέρας τοῦ Ἀλβίνου ἡπτήθη τε καὶ κατεφυγεν ἐς τὸ ἔρμα, καὶ οἱ Σεούηρειοι στρατιῶται διώκοντες συνεστέποντο, καὶ ἔκεινον τοὺς ἐφόσευσον

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lected a small force at first and killed a few of A.D. 196 Albinus’ cavalry, and also performed some other daring exploits in Severus’ interest. Severus heard of it, and believing that he was really one of the senators, sent him a message commending him and bidding him increase his force. The man did so, and among other remarkable exhibitions of his prowess, he captured and sent to Severus seventy million sesterces. After the latter’s victory Numerianus came to him, concealing naught nor yet asking to be made a senator in very truth; on the contrary, though he might have been exalted to great honours and wealth, he did not choose to accept them, but spent the remainder of his life in some country place, receiving a small allowance from the emperor for his daily needs.

The struggle between Severus and Albinus near A.D. 197 Lugdunum must now be described. There were a hundred and fifty thousand soldiers on each side, and both leaders were present in the conflict, since it was a life-and-death struggle between them, though Severus had not previously been present at any other battle. Albinus excelled in family and education, but his adversary was superior in warfare and was a skilful commander. It chanced, however, that in an earlier battle Albinus had defeated Lupus, one of Severus’ generals, and had slain many of his soldiers. The present conflict showed many phases and shifts of fortune. Thus, Albinus’ left wing was defeated and fled back to the camp, and Severus’ men, pursuing them, burst in with them and proceeded to slay them and to

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1 Ἀλβίνῳ R. St., ἀλβινᾶ VC.  2 τὰ supplied by Rk.
plunder their tents. In the meantime Albinus' troops on the right wing, having concealed trenches in front of them and pits covered over with earth on the surface, advanced as far as these pitfalls and hurled their javelins at long range; then, instead of continuing to go forward, they turned back, as if frightened, with the purpose of drawing their foes in pursuit. And this is exactly what happened. For Severus' men, nettled by their brief charge and despising them for their flight after so short an advance, rushed against them in the belief that the whole intervening distance was passable; but on reaching the trenches, they met with a terrible disaster. For the men in the front rank, as soon as the surface-covering was broken through, fell into the excavations, and those immediately behind stumbled over them, slipped, and likewise fell in; the rest drew back in terror, but their retreat was so sudden that they not only lost their footing themselves, but also upset those in the rear and drove them into a deep ravine. Great, indeed, was the loss of life among both these and those who had fallen into the trenches, as horses and men perished in wild confusion. And in the midst of this disorder the men between the ravine and the trenches were being annihilated by showers of missiles and arrows. Severus, seeing this, came to their aid with the Pretorians, but, far from helping them, he came very near destroying the Pretorians, too, and found his own life imperilled when he lost his horse. When he saw all his men in flight, he tore off his

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1 aitëv R. Steph., aitëv VC.

2 ēghéneto H. Steph., ēghéontou VC.
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riding cloak, and drawing his sword, rushed among A.D. 197
the fugitives, hoping either that they would be
ashamed and turn back or that he might himself
perish with them. Some, indeed, did stop when
they saw him in this attitude, and turned back;
and brought in this way face to face with the men
following them, they cut down not a few of them,
supposing them to be Albinus' men, and they routed
all their pursuers. At this juncture the cavalry
under Laetus came up from one side and completed
their victory. Laetus, it appears, so long as the
struggle was close, had merely looked on, hoping
that both leaders would perish and that the soldiers
who survived on either side would give the supreme
to power to him; but when he saw that Severus' side
was prevailing, he also took a hand in the business.

Thus Severus conquered; but the Roman power
suffered a severe blow, inasmuch as countless
numbers had fallen on both sides. Many even of
the victors deplored the disaster, for the entire
plain was seen to be covered with the bodies of
men and horses; some of them lay there mutilated
by many wounds, as if hacked in pieces, and others,
though unwounded, were piled up in heaps, weapons
lay scattered about, and blood flowed in streams,
even pouring into the rivers. Albinus took refuge
in a house that stood beside the Rhone, but when
he saw the whole place surrounded, he slew himself.
I am not stating, now, what Severus wrote about it,
but what actually took place. The emperor, after
viewing the body of Albinus and feasting his eyes

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² οίκα BK, οί VC.
upon it to the full, while giving free rein to his tongue as well, ordered all but the head to be cast away, but sent the head to Rome to be exposed on a pole. As this action showed clearly that he possessed none of the qualities of a good ruler, he alarmed both us and the populace more than ever by the commands that he sent; for now that he had overcome all armed opposition, he was venting upon the unarmed all the wrath that he had stored up against them in the past. He caused us especial dismay by constantly styling himself the son of Marcus and the brother of Commodus and by bestowing divine honours upon the latter, whom but recently he had been abusing. While reading to the senate a speech, in which he praised the severity and cruelty of Sulla, Marius and Augustus as the safer course and deprecated the mildness of Pompey and Caesar as having proved the ruin of those very men, he introduced a sort of defence of Commodus and inveighed against the senate for dishonouring that emperor unjustly, in view of the fact that the majority of its members lived worse lives. “For if it was disgraceful,” he said, “for him with his own hands to slay wild beasts, yet at Ostia only the other day one of your number, an old man who had been consul, was publicly sporting with a prostitute who imitated a leopard. But, you will say, Commodus actually fought as a gladiator. And does none of you fight as a gladiator? If not, how and why is it that some of you have bought his shields and those famous golden helmets?”

2 καὶ supplied by R. Steph.
3 οὗ supplied by R. Steph.
4 Ὅστιος Bk., Ὅστιος VC.
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reading this address, he released thirty-five prisoners A.D. 197
who were charged with having sided with Albinus,
and behaved toward them as if they had not
incurred any charge at all (they were among the
foremost members of the senate), but condemned
to death twenty-nine other men, among whom
naturally was Sulpicianus, the father-in-law of
Pertinax.

All pretended to be on the side of Severus, but
they were confuted as often as any sudden tidings
arrived, being unable to conceal the feelings hidden
in their hearts. For when off their guard they started
at reports that came without warning; and in such
ways, as well as by their countenances and behaviour,
the feelings of every one of them became manifest.
Some also by pretending overmuch were recognized
all the more readily.

Severus attempted in the case of those who were
being punished by him . . . to employ Eucricus
Clarus as an informer against them, with the double
purpose of compromising this man and of seeming
to justify more completely the conviction of the
accused in view of the witness's family and reputation;
and he promised Clarus both his life and
pardon. But when Clarus chose rather to die than
to make any such revelations, he turned to Julianus
and persuaded him to take the part; and for this
service he let him off, to the extent of not putting
him to death or disfranchising him, but he rigorously
verified all his statements by evidence given

1 C. Julius Eucricus Clarus Vibiaius.
1 Lacuna indicated by Rk.
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