AFTER this Antoninus made a campaign against A.D. 216 the Parthians, on the pretext that Artabanus had refused to give him his daughter in marriage when he sued for her hand; for the Parthian king had realized clearly enough that the emperor, while pretending to want to marry her, was in reality eager to get the Parthian kingdom incidentally for himself. So Antoninus now ravaged a large section of the country around Media by making a sudden incursion, sacked many fortresses, won over Arbela, dug open the royal tombs of the Parthians, and scattered the bones about. This was the easier for him to accomplish inasmuch as the Parthians did not even join battle with him; and accordingly I have found nothing of especial interest to record concerning the incidents of that campaign except the following anecdote. Two soldiers who had seized a skin of wine came to him, each claiming the booty as his alone; and upon being ordered by him to divide the wine equally, they drew their swords and cut the wine skin in half, apparently expecting each to get a half with the wine in it. Thus they had so little reverence for their emperor that they troubled him with such matters as this, and exercised so little intelligence that they lost both the skin and the wine. The barbarians took refuge in the mountains beyond the Tigris in order to complete their preparations, but Antoninus suppressed this fact and took to himself as much credit
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5 de de kai panteléous autón, ods µηδε έωρακε, kekratikos ëxemwnýnto, kai máliosta òti léon tis exáphíias ëx òrrous kataárdwmwn synemákhisen
2 autó, ovs autós épástéléven. ou mónon de tá allá ekdihmáto kai parhnómëi kai eín autai tais strateíais (allá kai tina idiai k. t. l. e. 3. 3).
Xiph. 337, 17—338, 6 R. St.
...
... alía 1 alítheia; kai gar to bìblír to perı autón ekrípetai òi évèntukov. ouño gar por πroñ pántas porov bouléntas diakeiménov sunýðei éautò 2 ósthe mhn ëgkaloumënov tis polllon tōn te douλon kai tōn ëxelunérwv tōn te filous autón tōn pánu sullambánvovn te òπ' autón kai diá báscanov érootásbhai "ei ára ò deìna me filét" ò "ò deìna me muðë;" kai gar to kai πroñ 3 tā tōn ústzron diaghramámta, kai 4 ëggenýnto tās tōn πρώτων tōn parı autò, 4 étkeiýrve, òs ëλγεν, tōn te òikeídes oí kai tōn alloterías ëxhíta, kai polllou kai ek tou̇ntov tōn mën etíma tōn 5 òπ' autolíven.

3 Tōn ó ou Philárov tōn te Mírhoù deînous ef' ois épípanvsean ãgámktyómánton kai xéira politn paraskúnavoménov en paītì deînus ëgénveto' ðraosútatos mev gar apelísíheta tis 5 kai proptéastatos toûmësai, deîlótatos ðe diá-
kinvúvësia tη kai ñasthénstatos polûsai òn.

1 Here begins Cod. Vat. 1288 (V); see Vol. I. Pref. p. xxi. This MS. has become illegible in many places and has suffered considerably from the trimming of the edges. In the present critical apparatus only such readings of V are recorded as clearly depart from the text of Boissévain here reproduced; this text includes some fairly certain additions.

EPITOME OF BOOK LXXIX

as if he had utterly vanquished these foes, whom as A.D. 212
a matter of fact he had not even seen; and he was
particularly elated because, as he himself wrote, a
lion had suddenly run down from a mountain and
fought on his side. Not only in other ways did he
live in an unusual manner and violate precedents
even on his very campaigns, (but he also invented a
costume of his own, etc.)

... but truth; for I have read the book written
by him about it. He realized so well how he stood
and how his friends and the wisest of the
men of whom he was not even under any charge at all were
by him and were asked under torture whether So-
and-so loved him or So-and-so hated him. Indeed,
he used to judge, as he said, even by the charts of
the stars under which any of the prominent men
about him had been born, which one was friendly to
him and which was hostile; and on this evidence he
honoured many persons and destroyed many others.

When the Parthians and the Medes, greatly
angered by the treatment they had received, pro-
ceeded to raise a large army, he fell into the greatest
terror. For, though he was most bold with his
threats and most reckless in his undertakings, yet
he was the greatest coward in the face of danger
and the greatest weakening in the presence of hard-

(Chiefly of parts of words and short phrases) made by various
scholars to fill the more obvious lacunae.
1 éautò supplied by Be., following Sauppe (aðtη after
diakeiménov).
2 πρόθ supplied by Polak.
3 aðtη Leich., ΑΤΤΩΝ V cod. Peir.
4 tì cod. Peir., om. V.

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2 οὕτω γὰρ οὕτω τὸ κάθιμα οὐθ' ὧπλα φέρειν ἔτι ἑώνατο ὡστε καὶ τοὺς χειρισμοὺς χιτώνας ἐς τρόπον τινᾶ εἰδὸς τετευηκέοντον ἑδώσειν, Ἱα τὴν τοῦ ὄπλου ὧδε τὰς χαρὰς τοῦ βάρους ἀυτοῦ ἔχουν μίτη ἐπιβουλεύενται καὶ θαυμάζειν. καὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἅνευ μάχες πολλάκις ἔχρητο.

3 χλαμύδα τε τοτε μὲν ὀλοσφυφον τοτε δὲ με-
σόλευκον, ἐστι δ' ὦτε καὶ μεσοπόρφυρον, ὀσπέρ καὶ ἐγὼ ἐδίδω, ἑφόρει. ἐν γὰρ τῇ Συρίᾳ τῇ τῇ Μεσοποταμίᾳ Κέλτικοι καὶ έσθημασιν καὶ ύπο-
δήμασιν ἔχρηστα. καὶ τῶν ἰδίων ἐνδύσεις μαρ-
βαρικῶς ποὺς κατακόπτουν καὶ συρράπτουν ἐς
μάνδυς τρόπον προσεπεξεύρεν, καὶ αὐτὸς τε
συνεχέστατα αὐτὴν ένδυνυν, ὡστε καὶ Καρα-
καλλος διὰ τοῦτο ἐπικληθήναι, καὶ τῶν στρατιω-
τας μάλιστα ἰμφιένυνθαι ἐκέλευν.

4 Αὐτὸν τε ὅν τοιοῦτον οἱ βάρβαροι ὅρωντε
όντα, καὶ ἐκείνους πολλοὺς μὲν ἀκούοντες εἶναι,
ἐκ δὲ δὴ τῆς προτέρας τρυφῆς (τὰ τε γὰρ ἄλλα
καὶ ἐν οἰκίαις) ἐκείμαζον, πάντα τὰ τῶν ἐνο-
δοκούντων σφάς ὡς καὶ ἱδα ἀναλάκοντες) κα
καὶ τῶν πόνων τῆς τε ταλαπωρίας τῆς τότε
αὐτῶν παρουσών ὁὐτοῦ καὶ τὰ σώματα τε-
τρυχουμένους καὶ τὰς φυχὰς τεταμενομένους.

5 ὡστε μηδὲν τῶν λημμάτων ἔτι, ἃ πολλὰ ἄει
παρ' αὐτοῦ ἐλάμβανον, προτιμάν, αἰσθήμενοι,
ἐπιρρήθησαν ὡς καὶ συγαγωνιστὰς αὐτοὺς ἀλλ'
find them helpers rather than foes

Antoninus made preparations in his turn; but it did not fall to his lot to carry on the war, for he was murdered in the midst of his soldiers, whom he most honoured and in whom he reposed vast confidence. It seems that a seer in Africa had declared, in such a manner that it became noise abroad, that both Macrinus, the prefect, and his son, Diadumenianus, were destined to hold the imperial power; and later this seer, upon being sent to Rome, had revealed this prophecy to Flavius Maternianus, who at the time commanded the soldiers in the city, and this man had at once written a letter to Antoninus. But it happened that this letter was diverted to Antioch to the emperor’s mother Julia, since she had been instructed to sort everything that arrived and thus prevent a mass of unimportant letters from being sent to him while he was in the enemy’s country; whereas another letter, written by Ulpianus Julianus, who was then in charge of the census, went by other couriers direct to Macrinus, informing him of the state of affairs. Thus the message to the emperor was delayed, while the despatch to Macrinus was read by him in good season. And so Macrinus, fearing he should be put to death by Antoninus on this account, especially as a certain Egyptian, Serapio, had told the emperor to his face a few days earlier that he would be short-lived and that Macrinus would succeed him, delayed no longer. Serapio had at first been thrown to a lion for this, but when, as the result of his merely holding out his hand, as is reported, the animal did not touch him, he was slain; and he might have escaped even
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this fate,—or so he declared,—by invoking certain A.D. 217 spirits, if he had lived one day longer.

Macrinus came to no harm, but hastened his preparations, having a presentiment that otherwise he should perish, especially as Antoninus had suddenly, [on the day before] his birthday, removed those of Macrinus' companions that were with him, alleging various reasons in different cases, but with the general pretext of showing them honour,

believing that it was fated for him to secure [the throne?], he had also chosen a name suggestive of this.1 Accordingly, he secured the services of two tribunes assigned to the pretorian guard, Nemesianus and Apollinaris,2 brothers belonging to the Aurelian gens, and of Julius Martialis, who was enrolled among the evocati and had a private grudge against Antoninus for not having given him the post of centurion when he asked for it, and so formed his plot against Antoninus. It was carried out thus. On the eighth of April, when the emperor had set out from Edessa for Carrhae and had dismounted from his horse to ease himself, Martialis approached as though desiring to say something to him and struck him with a small dagger. Martialis immediately fled and would have escaped detection, had he thrown away his sword; but, as it was, the weapon led to his being recognized by one of the Scythians in attendance upon Antoninus, and he was struck down with a javelin. As for Antoninus, the

1 Probably an explanation of the name Diademenum, later changed to Diadumenianus; compare diadema.

2 Apollinarius and Martialis in the Greek.
The Scythian mentioned was in attendance upon Antoninus, not merely as an ally, but also as a kind of body-guard. For the emperor kept Scythians and Germans about him, freemen and slaves alike, whom he had taken away from their masters and wives and had armed, apparently placing more confidence in them than in the soldiers; and among various honours that he showed them he made them centurions, and called them "lions." Furthermore, he would often converse with the envoys sent to him from time to time by the nations to which these soldiers belonged, when no one else but the interpreters was present, instructing them, in case anything happened to him, to invade Italy and march upon Rome, assuring them that it was very easy to capture; and to prevent any inkling of his conversation from getting to our ears, he would immediately put to death the interpreters. Nevertheless, we learned of it later from the barbarians themselves; and as for the poisons, we learned of them from Macrinus. It seems that Antoninus had been in the habit of requisitioning or even buying great quantities of various poisons from the inhabitants of Upper Asia, spending thirty million sesterces all told upon them, in order that he might secretly kill in different ways great numbers of men, in fact all that he wished; these poisons were later discovered in the royal apartments and were all burned. At the time, however, with which we are concerned the soldiers, both for this reason and also because, in addition to other grievances, they were

8 οὲ Λευκ. V.
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vexed at seeing the barbarians preferred to them—A.D. 217
selves, were not in any case so delighted with
their emperor as formerly, and did not aid him
when he became the victim of a plot.

Such was the end to which Antoninus came, after
living twenty-nine years and four days (for he had
been born on the fourth of April), and after ruling
six years, two months, and two days. At this point
also in my narrative many things come to mind to
arouse my astonishment. For instance, when he
was about to set out from Antioch on his last
journey, his father appeared to him in a dream,
wearing a sword and saying, "As you killed your
brother, so will I slay you"; and the soothsayers
warned him to beware of that day, bluntly telling
him in so many words that the gates of the victim's
life were shut. After this he went out through
a certain door, paying no heed to the fact that the
lion which he was wont to call "Rapiere" and had
for a table-companion and bedfellow seized him as
he went out and even tore his clothing. For he
used to keep many lions and always had some of
them around him, but this one he would often
care even in public. Besides these prodigies,
a little while before his death a great fire, as I have
heard, suddenly filled the entire interior of the
temple of Serapis at Alexandria, but did no damage
beyond destroying the sword with which Antoninus
had slain his brother; and later, when the fire had
stopped, many stars became visible. In Rome,
moreover, a spirit having the appearance of a man

\footnote{1} τοιούτῳ Υτ., ΤΟΙΟΤΩΝ V.
\footnote{2} ετή Χιψ., ΕΘΤΕ V.
\footnote{3} πρό Χιψ., ΠΡΟΣ V.
\footnote{4} τὸ παράσαν Υτ., ΤΟΠΑΡΑ V, om. Xiph.
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