XENOPHON. THE FOURTH BOOK OF THE ANABASIS

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Xenophon. The fourth book of the Anabasis by North Pinder

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THE FOURTH BOOK OF THE ANABASIS.

WITH NOTES

. BY THE

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INTRODUCTION.

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THE ANABASIS consists of two portions : (1) the 'Aráβασις proper, or Expedition of Cyrus inland against his elder brother Artaxerxes, lawful sovereign of Persia; (2) the Karáßasıs, or fifteen months' Retreat of the Greeks after the Battle of Cunaxa and death of Cyrus in 401 B.C. As Cyrus is the chief figure in the first section. Xenophon is the hero of the second. Indeed, from Book III. 1, §4 (where the author formally introduces himself), the Anabasis deserves the name of an autobiography as much as that of a history; Xenophon's object, as it might seem, being primarily to exhibit his own courage, self-devotion, and generalship, to the exclusion or disparagement of the merits of others (see, e.g. in this Book, iii. § 10; iv. § 12; v. § 7; vi. § 17). The present Book takes up the nar-

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rative at the twentieth day's march from the beginning of the Retreat, in the autumn of 401 B.C. (which had hitherto followed the left bank of the Tigris northwards), and continues it to the arrival of the army at Trapezus, on the Euxine, in the spring of 400 B.C. Whether the work mentioned in 'Hellenica,' III. I, be another 'Anabasis,' or Xenophon's own production, attributed for some unknown reason to Themistogenes, the Anabasis, as we have it, is unquestionably Xenophontcan in style, sentiment, diction, and dialect. 'Everywhere,' says Mure, 'may be recognised the same genial simplicity of narrative style, degenerating at times into conversational gossip, the same vein of oratory, the same taste for the discussion of technical points of military tactics, the same love of the chase and of horsemanship, the same confiding superstition manifested in the same forms and towards the same objects of devotion. the same veneration for Sparta, the same clear perception of moral duty in the abstract, the same obliquity of moral judgment where personal partialities interposed.'*

* Hist. Lit, of Anc. Greece, b. iv. c. 13.

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The Anabasis was composed probably some time after 380 B.C., during Xenophon's residence at Scillus near Olympia (described Anab. V. iii. § 7). We have other records of the earlier events of the period in the existing works of Diodorus and Plutarch, and in citations from the lost histories of Persia by Ctesias and Deinon, contemporarics of Xenophon.

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CHAPTER I.

§ 1. Recapitulation of previous books. § 2-5. The Tigris being found impassable, the Grecian generals determine, on the information gained from captives, to strike into the mountains of Karduchia. \$ 5-8. Starting at night they ascend the hills, Cheirisophus in front, Xenophon with the hoplites in the rear; the former reaches the top of the first pass unperceived, and thence descends into the villages on the other side. \$8-12. The Karduchi fly to the mountains, leaving furniture and provisions behind ; the former is not touched by the Greeks, who hoped thus to conciliate the natives : these, however, prove implacable, and set upon the rearguard, just as they are entering the villages in the dark, killing a few; the mountaineers keep up communi-cation through the night by fires. § 12-15. The generals, next day, resolve to rid themselves of many of the baggageanimals and the prisoners, which retarded their march ; and they see to the order being executed with but few exceptions. § 15-23. The Greeks continue their march in a snow-storm, delayed by the repeated attacks of the enemy ; Cheirisophus presses on with the van, while Xenophon, left behind with the rear, loses two of his men from the deadly missiles of the foe, great disorder in consequence arising among the troops behind. Xenophon remonstrates with Cheirisophus, who defends himself on the ground of having hurried on to reach the only pass open to them before it was seized by the enemy. Xenophan, having caught two of the natives in an ambush, prepares to