CLARENDON PRESS SERIES. EASY PASSAGES FOR TRANSLATION INTO LATIN

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Clarendon Press Series. Easy Passages for Translation into Latin by John Young Sargent

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JOHN YOUNG SARGENT

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TRANSLATION INTO LATIN

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PASSAGES

FOR

TRANSLATION INTO LATIN.

1. WHILE at a distance from the enemies' frontier, they disperse through the woods, and support themselves with the game which they kill, or the fish which they catch. As they approach nearer to the territories of the nation which they intend to attack, they collect their troops, and advance with greater caution. Even then they proceed wholly by stratagem and ambuscade. They place not their glory in attacking their enemies with open force. To surprise and destroy is the greatest merit of a commander, and the highest pride of his followers. War and hunting are their only occupations, and they conduct both with the same spirit and the same arts. They follow the track of their enemies through the forest. They endeavour to discover their haunts, they lurk in some thicket near to these, and with the patience of a sportsman lying in wait for game, will continue in their station day after day, until they can rush upon their prey when most secure, and least able to resist them. ..

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PASSAGES FOR TRANSLATION

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2. The satrap sent him a message pretending that he had himself fallen under the displeasure of Cambyses, and saw no hopes of safety but in the protection of Polycrates : 'Save me,' he said, 'and share my treasures, with them you may be master of Greece; if you doubt their amount send a trusty servant, and satisfy yourself by his report.' Polycrates caught at the bait : his messenger went, and came back from Sardis with a description of the satrap's treasury, which so inflamed his master's cupidity that, in spite of all the warnings of his friends and the entreaties of his daughter, he resolved to make a journey to Sardis him- . self. He set out with a numerous train, but when he arrived at Magnesia on the Mæander, he was arrested by order of Orætes, and hung upon a cross.

8. The Persians fought bravely, though without method and order: they rushed forward, singly or in irregular groups, and endeavoured to seize and break the enemy's lances. Mardonius himself, with the thousand horse whom he had selected from the royal guards, was foremost in the fight. He was conspicuous by his white charger, as well as by the splendour of his arms : but while the issue of the conflict was still doubtful, he received a mortal wound from a Spartan, named Aeimnestus, and his fall decided the fate of the day. The Persians immediately began to give way, and their example was followed by all the other barbarians. The rout soon became general, and the fugitives made for the camp as their nearest and surest refuge. Artabazus alone took a different course. Discontented with Mardonius, or foreboding the event, he had lingered behind

INTO LATIN.

with his division of forty thousand men. As he came up to the field of battle, he met the flying multitude, and finding that all was lost, took the road to Phocis, with the design of making his way, by forced marches, to the Hellespont.

4. In this prison he was left above twelve years; a most painful restraint, from which the thirst of action and pleasure perpetually urged him to escape. Alone and pensive he perceived some broken bricks in a corner of the chamber, and gradually widened the passage, till he had explored a dark and forgotten recess. Into this hole he conveyed himself and the remains of his provisions, replacing the bricks in their former positions, and erasing with care the footsteps of his retreat. At the hour of the customary visit, his guards were amazed with the silence and solitude of the prison, and reported, with shame and fear, his incomprehensible flight. The gates of the palace and city were instantly shut; and the strictest orders were despatched into the provinces for the recovery of their fugitive.

5. The Grecian fleet, as we have seen, had staid among the Cyclades, to punish the islanders who had aided the barbarians. Themistocles seized the opportunity of enriching himself at their expense. He first demanded a contribution from Andros: and when the Andrians refused it, he told them that the Athenians had brought two powerful gods to second their demand, Persuasion and Force. The Andrians replied that they also had a pair of ill-conditioned gods, who would not leave their island, nor let them comply with the will