

THE CAPTIVES OF PLAUTUS

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The Captives of Plautus by Titus Maccius Plautus & Joseph R. Taylor

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TITUS MACCIUS PLAUTUS & JOSEPH R. TAYLOR

THE CAPTIVES OF PLAUTUS

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THE CAPTIVES OF PLAUTUS

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH PROSE

BY

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THE EVERETT PRESS.

PREFACE.

The plot of "The Captives" is as follows: Hegio, a well-to-do Ætolian, has by accident lost both of his sons. One, a four-year-old boy, was stolen by a slave, Stalagmus, who ran away with the child and sold him in Elis to a wealthy Elean named Theodoromedes. Some twenty years later, war broke out between Ætolia and Elis, and Hegio's other son, Philopolemus by name, fell into the hands of the Eleans. Despairing of ever seeing his long-lost infant child, Hegio now bends all his energies to the recovery of his recently lost son, Philopolemus. With a view to securing, if possible, by an exchange of prisoners, the recovery of his son, Hegio begins to buy up all the Elean captives he can find. Among his purchases are Philocrates (an Elean of high rank) and his servant, Tyndarus. Hegio makes an arrangement with Philocrates, by which the servant Tyndarus is to go back to Elis, and return with Philopolemus, whom Hegio agrees to exchange for Philocrates. To his dismay, he finds that Philocrates and Tyndarus had formed a conspiracy, by which they exchanged names and costumes, so that he has really sent off the master and retained the worthless slave. The treacherous Tyndarus is condemned to labor in the stone-quarries. Philocrates, however, proves to be of genuinely noble character, and he returns, bringing with him Philopolemus and the slave Stalagmus, who had so many years before run away from Hegio's service and had carried off Hegio's infant child. To the surprise of all, the statement of Stalagmus proves that Tyndarus the slave, now in the stone-quarries,

is the very child of Hegio which Stalagmus had stolen, and that he had sold him in Elis to the father of Philocrates, who had given him to his son Philocrates as a personal gift, because the boys were of the same age. The two boys have grown up together in the relation of master and servant.

The text is that of Fleckeisen, as found in Lindsay's school-edition of "The Captives." The translation was prepared as the libretto for the public performance of "The Captives," given by the students of Boston University under the direction of the department of Latin. It is hoped, however, that the book may not be without interest to a larger public than the one for which it was specially prepared.

J. R. T.

April 24, 1896.

T. MACCI PLAVTI

CAPTIVI

GRAECA [ANAXANDRIDII]

ARGUMENTVM.

Captúst in pugna Hégionis flius.
Aliúm quadrimum fúgiens seruos uéndidit.
Patér captiuos cónmercatur Áleos
Tantúm studens ut gnátum recuperét [suum],
Et ín ibus emit ólim amissum flium.
Is suó cum domino uéste uorsa ac nómine
Vt [is] ámittatur fécit : ipse pléctitur.
Et is reduxit cáptum et fugitiuóm semul,
Indício quoius álium agnoscit flium.

THE ARGUMENT.

Philopolemus, a son of Hegio, was captured in battle. Stalagmus, a slave of Hegio, ran away with a second son, Tyndarus, a boy four years of age, and sold him. The father is so anxious to recover his son Philopolemus that he buys up Elean captives, for the sake of making an exchange for his son. Among them he bought his long-lost son Tyndarus. This son changes with his master, Philocrates, both costume and name, and brings it about that the master is sent off from captivity. The son himself gets punished; the master, Philocrates, brings back both the runaway slave, Stalagmus, and the captured son, Philopolemus. By the testimony of the runaway slave, Hegio recognizes his other son, the stolen boy, Tyndarus.