

SEXTI AVRELII VICTORISLIBER DE CAESARIBVS AVRELII VICTORIS
HISTORIAE ABBREVIATAE

5 ab Augusto Octaviano,
id est a fine Titi Livii, usque ad consulatum decimum
Constantii Augusti et Iuliani Caesaris tertium.

10 34 1 Sed Claudi imperium milites, quos fere contra ingenium perditae res subigunt
recta consulere, ubi afflictia omnia perspexere, avide approbant extolluntque, viri
laborum patientis aequique ac prorsus dediti reipublicae, 2 quippe ut longo
intervallo Deciorum morem renovaverit. 3 Nam cum pellere Gothos cuperet, quos
diuturnitas nimis validos ac prope incolas effeceras, proditum ex libris Sibyllinis
est primum ordinis amplissimi victoriae vovendum. 4 Cumque is, qui esse videbatur,
15 semet obtulisset, sibi potius id munera competere ostendit, qui revera senatus atque
omnium princeps erat. 5 Ita nullo exercitus detimento fusi barbari summotique,
postquam imperator vita reipublicae dono dedit. 6 Adeo bonis salus civium ac longa
sui memoria cariora sunt; quae non gloriae modo, verum etiam ratione quadam
20 posteriorum felicitati proficiunt. 7 Hoc siquidem Constantius et Constantinus atque
imperatores nostri [?] orisque acceptior militibus praemiorum spe seu lasciviae. 8
Quo aegra asperiorque victoria fuit, dum, uti mos subditis est, studio impune
peccandi remissa imperia promptius quam utilia defendant.

25 40 1 Igitur Constantio atque Armentario his succedentibus Severus Maximinusque
Illyricorum indigenae Caesares, prior Italiam posteriorque, in quae Iovius
obtinuerat, destinantur. 2 Quod tolerare nequiens Constantinus, cuius iam tum a puero
ingens potensque animus ardore imperitandi agitabatur, fugae commento, cum ad
frustrandos insequentes publica iumenta, quaqua iter egerat, interficeret, in
30 Britanniam pervenit; nam is a Galerio religionis specie ad vicem obsidis tenebatur. 3
Et forte iisdem diebus ibidem Constantium patrem vel parentem vitae ultima urgebant.
4 Quo mortuo cunctis qui aderant, annitentibus imperium capit. 5 Interim Romae vulgus
turmaeque praetoriae Maxentium retractante diu patre Herculio imperatorem confirmant.
6 Quod ubi Armentarius accepit, Severum Caesarem, qui casu ad urbem erat, arma in
hostem ferre propere iubet. 7 Is circum muros cum ageret, desertus a suis, quos
35 praemiorum illecebris Maxentius traduxerat, fugiens obsessusque Ravennae obiit. 8 Hoc
acrior Galerius ascito in consilium Iovio Licinium vetere cognitum amicitia Augustum
creat; eoque ad munimentum Illyrici ac Thraciae relicto Romam contendit. 9 Ibi cum
obsidione distineretur, militibus eadem, qua superiores, via attentatis, metu ne
desereretur, Italia decessit; pauloque post vulnere pestilentि consumptus est, cum
40 agrum satis reipublicae commodantem caesis immanibus silvis atque emisso in Danubium
lacu Pelsone apud Pannonios fecisset. 10 Cuius gratia provinciam uxoris nomine
Valeriam appellavit. 11 Huic quinquennii imperium, Constantio annum fuit, cum sane
uterque potentiam Caesarum annos tredecim gessissent. 12 Adeo miri naturae
beneficia, ut ea si a doctis pectoribus proficiscerentur neque insulsitate
45 offenderent, haud dubie praecipua haberentur. 13 Quare compertum est eruditionem
elegantiam comitatem praesertim principibus necessarias esse, cum sine his naturae
bona quasi incompta aut etiam horrida despectui sint, contraque ea Persarum regi Cyro
aeternam gloriam paraverint. 14 At memoria mea Constantinum, quamquam ceteris
promptum virtutibus, adusque astra votis omnium subvexere. 15 Qui profecto si
50 munificentiae atque ambitioni modum hisque artibus statuisset, quis praecipue adulta
ingenia gloriae studio progressa longius in contrarium labuntur, haud multum abesset
deo. 16 Is ubi vastari urbem atque Italiam comperit pulsosque seu redemptos exercitus
et imperatores duos, composita pace per Gallias Maxentium petit. 17 Ea tempestate
apud Poenos Alexander pro praefecto gerens dominatui stolide incubuerat, cum ipse
55 debili aetate, agrestibus ac Pannonicis parentibus vecordior, milites tumultuarie
quaesiti, armorum vix medium haberetur. 18 Denique eum a tyranno missi paucissimis
cohortibus Rufius Volusianus praefectus praetorio ac militares duces levi certamine
confecere. 19 Quo victo Maxentius Carthaginem, terrarum decus, simul Africæ
pulchriora vastari diripi incendique iusserat, ferus inhumanusque ac libidine multa
60 tetrica. 20 Adhuc pavidus et imbellis atque in desidiam foede pronus, usque eo, ut
flagrante per Italiam belle fusisque apud Veronam suis nihilo segnus solita curaret
neque patris exitio moveretur. 21 Namque Herculius natura impotentior, simul filii
segnitatem metuens inconsulte imperium repetiverat. 22 Cumque specie officii dolis
compositis Constantinum generum tentaret acerbe, iure tandem interierat. 23 Sed
65 Maxentius atrocior in dies tandem urbe in Saxa rubra milia ferme novem aegerrime
progressus, cum caesa acie fugiens semet Romam reciperet, insidiis, quas hosti apud
pontem Milvium locaverat, in transgressu Tiberis interceptus est tyrannidis anno
sesto. 24 Huius nece incredibile quantum laetitia gaudioque senatus ac plebes

70 exsultaverint; quos in tantum afflictaverat, uti praetorianis caedem vulgi quondam
 annuerit primusque instituto pessimo munerum specie patres aratoresque pecuniam
 conferre prodigenti sibi cogeret. 25 Quorum odio praetoriae legiones ac subsidia
 factionibus aptiora quam urbi Romae sublata penitus, simul arma atque usus indumenti
 militaris. 26 Adhuc cuncta opera, quae magnifice construxerat, urbis fanum atque
 basilicam Flavii meritis patres sacravere. 27 A quo etiam post Circus maximus
 75 excultus mirifice atque ad lavandum institutum opus ceteris haud multo dispar. 28
 Statuae locis quam celeberrimis, quarum plures ex auro aut argenteae sunt; tum per
 Africam sacerdotium decretum Flaviae genti, Cirtaeque oppido, quod obsidione
 Alexandri conciderat, reposito exornatoque nomen Constantina inditum. 29 Adeo
 acceptius praestantiusque tyrannorum depulsoribus nihil est, quorum gratia eo demum
 80 auctior erit, si modesti atque abstinentes sint. 30 Quippe humanae mentes frustratae
 boni spe asperius offenduntur, cum mutato rectore flagitioso aerumnarum vis manet.

41 1 Dum haec in Italia geruntur, Maximinus ad Orientem post biennii augustum
 imperium fusus fugatusque a Licinio apud Tarsum perit. 2 Ita potestas orbis Romani
 85 duobus quaesita, qui quamvis per Flavii sororem nuptam Licinio conexi inter se erant,
 ob diverse mores tamen anxie triennium congruere quivere. 3 Namque illi praeter
 tadem magna cetera, huic parsimonia et ea quidem agrestis tantummodo inerat. 4
 Denique Constantinus cunctos hostes honore ac fortunis manentibus texit recepitque,
 eo pius, ut etiam vetus teterimumque supplicium patibulorum et cruribus
 90 suffringendis primus removerit. 5 Hinc pro conditore seu deo habitus. Licinio ne
 insontium quidem ac nobilium philosophorum servili more cruciatus adhibiti modum
 fecere. 6 Quo sane variis proeliis pulso, cum eum prorsus opprimere arduum videretur,
 simul affinitatis gratia refectum consortium ascitique imperio Caesarum communes
 95 liberi Crispus Constantinusque Flavio geniti, Licinianus Licinio. 7 Quod equidem vix
 diuturnum neque his, qui assumebantur, felix fore defectu solis foedato iisdem
 mensibus die patefactum. 8 Itaque sexennio post rupta pace apud Thracas Licinius
 pulsus Chalcedona concessit. 9 Ibi ad auxilium sui Martiniano in imperium cooptato
 una oppressus est. 10 Eo modo respublica unius arbitrio geri coepit, liberis Caesarum
 100 nomina diversa retentantibus: namque ea tempestate imperatori nostro Constantio
 insigne Caesaris datum. 11 Quorum cum natu grandior, incertum qua causa, patris
 iudicio occidisset, repente Calocerus magister pecoris camelorum Cyprum insulam
 specie regni demens capessiverat. 12 Quo excruciato, ut fas erat, servili aut
 latronum more, condenda urbe formandisque religionibus ingentem animum avocavit,
 simul novando militiae ordine. 13 Et interea Gothorum Sarmatarumque stratae gentes,
 105 filiusque cunctorum minor, Constans nomine, Caesar fit. 14 Cuius gratia reipublicae
 permixtionem fore ostentorum mira prodidere; quippe ea nocte, quae commissi imperii
 diem sequebatur, igni continuo caeli facies coliflagravit. 15 Abhinc consumpto fere
 bieimio fratri filium, cui ex patre Dalmatio nomen fait, Caesarem iussit
 110 obstantibus valide militaribus. 16 Ita anno imperii tricesimo secundoque, cum totum
 orbem tredecim tenuisset, sexaginta natus atque amplius duo, in Persas tendens, a
 quis bellum erumpere occuperat, rure proximo Nicomediae – Achyronam vocant –
 excessit, cum id teturum sidus regnis, quod crinitum vocant, portendisset. 17 Funus
 relatum in urbem sui nominis. Quod sane populus Romanus aegerrime tulit, quippe cuius
 115 armis legibus clementi imperio quasi novatam urbem Romam arbitraretur. 18 Pons per
 Danubium ductus; castra castellaque pluribus locis commode posita. 19 Remotae olei
 frumentique adventiciae praebitiones, quibus Tripolis ac Nicaea acerbius angebantur.
 20 Quorum superiores Severi imperio gratantes civi obtulerant, verteratque gratiam
 muneribus in perniciem posteriorum dissimulatio. Alteros Marcus Boionius afflixerat
 120 mulcta, quod Hipparchum praestanti ingenio indigenam fuisse ignoravissent. Fiscales
 molestiae severius pressae, cunctaque divino ritui paria viderentur, ni parum dignis
 ad publica aditum concessisset. 21 Quae quamquam saepius accidere, tamen in summo
 ingenio atque optimis reipublicae moribus, quamvis parva vitia, eluent magis eoque
 notantur facile; quin etiam acrius saepe officiunt, cum ob auctoris decus in virtutes
 125 potissimum accipiuntur atque ad imitandum invitamento sunt. 22 Igitur confestim
 Dalmatius, incertum quo suasore, interficitur; statimque triennio post minimum
 maximumque fatali bello Constantinus cadit. 23 Qua Constans victoria tumidior, simul
 per aetatem cautus parum atque animi vehemens, adhuc ministrorum pravitate
 exsecrabilis atque praeeceps in avaritiam despectumque militarium anno post triumphum
 decimo Magnentii scelere circumventus est externarum sane gentium compressis motibus.
 130 24 Quarum obsides pretio quaesitos pueros venustiores quod cultius habuerat, libidine
 huiuscemodi arsisse pro certo habetur. 25 Quae tamen vitia utinam mansissent! Namque
 Magnentii, utpote gentis barbarae, diro atrocique ingenio, simul his, quae post
 accidere, adeo extincta omnia sunt, ut illud imperium haud iniuria desideraretur; 26
 tum quia Vetranius litterarum prorsus expers et ingenio stolidior idcircoque agresti
 135 vecordia pessimus, cum per Illyrios peditum magisterio milites curaret, dominationem
 ortus Moesiae superioris locis squalidioribus improbe occupaverat.

42 1 Eum Constantius cis mensem decimum facundiae vi deiectum imperio in privatum
 140 otium removit. 2 Quae gloria post natum imperium soli processit eloquio clementiaque.
 3 Nam cum magna parte utrimque exercitus convenissent, habita ad speciem iudicii
 contione, quod fere vix aut multo sanguine obtinendum erat, eloquentia patravit. 4
 145 Quae res satis edocuit non modo domi, verum militiae quoque dicendi copiam praestare;
 qua demum vel ardua proclivius eo conficiuntur, si modestia atque integritate
 superet. 5 Quod maxime cognitum e nostro principe; quem tamen, quo minus statim in
 hostes alios ad Italiam contendere, hiems aspera clausaeque Alpes tardavere. 6
 Interim Romae corrupto vulgo, simul Magnentii odio Nepotianus, materna stirpe Flavio
 propinquus, caeso urbi praefecto armataque gladiatorum manu imperator fit. 7 Cuius
 150 stolidum ingenium adeo plebi Romanae patribusque exitio fuit, uti passim domus fora
 viae templaque cruore atque cadaveribus opplerentur bustorum modo. 8 Neque per eum
 tantum, verum etiam advolantibus Magnentianis, qui tricesimo die triduo minus hostem
 155 perculerant. 9 Sed iam antea cum externi motus suspectarentur, Magnentius fratri
 Decentio Gallias, Constantius Gallo, cuius nomen suo mutaverat, Orientem Caesaribus
 commiserant. 10 Ipsi inter se acrioribus proeliis per triennium congressi; ad
 extremum Constantius fugientem in Galliam persecutus vario ambos suppicio semet
 160 adegit interficere. 11 Et interea Iudeorum seditio, qui Patricium nefarie in regni
 speciem sustulerant, oppressa. 12 Neque multo post ob saevitiam atque animum trucem
 Gallus Augusti iussu interiit. 13 Ita longo intervallo annum fere post septuagesimum
 relata ad unum cura reipublicae. 14 Quae recens quieta a civili trepidatione Silvano
 in imperium coacto tentari rursus occuperat. 15 Is namque Silvanus in Gallia ortus
 165 barbaris parentibus ordine militiae, simul a Magnentio ad Constantium transgressu
 pedestre ad magisterium adolescentior meruerat. 16 E quo cum altius per metum seu
 dementiam concendisset, legionum, a quis praesidium speraverat, tumuitu octavum
 circa ac vicesimum diem trucidatus est. 17 Qua causa ne quid apud Gallos natura
 170 praecipites novaretur, praesertim Germanis pleraque earum partium populantibus
 Iulianum Caesarem cognitione acceptum sibi Transalpinis praefecit, isque nationes
 feras brevi subegit captis famosis regibus. 18 Quae quamquam vi eius, fortuna
 principis tamen et consilio accidere. 19 Quod adeo praestat, ut Tiberius Galeriusque
 subiecti aliis egregia pleraque, suo autem ductu atque auspicio minus paria experti
 175 sint. 20 At Iulius Constantius, annos tres atque viginti augustum imperium regens,
 cum externis motibus, modo civilibus exercetur, aegre ab armis abest. 21 Quis
 tyrannide tantorum depulsa sustentatoque interim Persarum impetu genti Sarmatarum
 magno decore considens apud eos regem dedit. 22 Quod Gnaeum Pompeium in Tigrane
 restituendo vixque paucos maiorum fecisse comperimus. 23 Placidus clemensque pro
 negotio, litterarum ad elegantiam prudens atque orandi genere leni iocundoque;
 180 laboris patiens ac destinandi sagittas mire promptus; cibi omnis libidinis atque
 omnium cupidinum victor; cultu genitoris satis pius suique nimis custos; gnarus vita
 bonorum principum reipublicae quietem regi. 24 Haec tanta tamque inclita tenue
 studium probandis provinciarum ac militiae rectoribus, simul ministrorum parte maxima
 absurdii mores, adhuc neglectus boni cuiusque foedavere. 25 Atque uti verum absolvam
 brevi: ut imperatore ipso praeclarior, ita apparitorum plerisque magis atrox nihil.

SIXTH AURELII VICTORIS

BOOK OF THE CAESARIVS AURELII VICTORIS

ABBREVIATED HISTORY

185 from Augustus Octavianus, that is, from the end of Titus Livius, to the tenth
 consulship of Constantius Augustus and the third of Julian Caesar.

34 1 But the soldiers of Claudius, whom the ruinous affairs almost against their
 190 nature subject to right counsel, when they have seen all the afflictions, eagerly
 approve and extol, men of patient labors and just and entirely devoted to the
 republic,
 2 since he renewed after a long interval the custom of the Decii.
 3 For when he desired to drive out the Goths, whom long life had made exceedingly
 195 strong and almost inhabited, it is revealed from the Sibylline books that the first
 of the most extensive orders of victory was to be vowed.
 4 And when he who seemed to be had offered himself, he showed that the office was
 rather suited to himself, who was in reality the leader of the senate and of all.
 5 Thus the barbarians were routed and driven out without any loss to the army, after
 200 the emperor had given his life as a gift to the republic.
 6 So much the safety of the citizens and a long memory of himself are dearer to the
 good; which not only contribute to glory, but also to the happiness of posterity in a
 certain way.
 7 This indeed is why Constantius and Constantine and our emperors are more acceptable

205 to the soldiers than to their lust or to their hope of rewards.
 8 Which made the victory more painful and harsh, since, as is the custom of subjects, they are more eager to sin with impunity and defend their abandoned empires than to defend their useful ones.

210 40 1 Therefore, when Constantius and Armentarius succeeded them, Severus and Maximinus, the native Caesars of Illyricum, the former to Italy and the latter to the lands which Jove had conquered.
 2 Unable to tolerate this, Constantine, whose great and powerful mind had already been stirred up by the ardor of command from his boyhood, devised a plan of flight, and, in order to frustrate the pursuers, killed the public cattle wherever they had gone, and reached Britain; For he was held by Galerius as a hostage under the pretext of religion.
 3 And it so happened that in the same days they were pressing Constantius' father or relative to the last days of his life.
 220 4 When he died, he seized power with the approval of all who were present.
 5 Meanwhile, the populace and the praetorian troops in Rome confirmed Maxentius as emperor, after his father Herculius had long since retracted.
 6 When Armentarius heard this, he promptly ordered Severus Caesar, who happened to be near the city, to take up arms against the enemy.
 225 7 While he was marching around the walls, he was deserted by his men, whom Maxentius had lured away with the lure of rewards, and, fleeing, he was besieged and died at Ravenna.
 8 Galerius, more furious at this, took counsel with Jovian, and created Licinius, an old friend of his, Augustus; and leaving behind him the fortifications of Illyricum and Thrace, he hastened to Rome.
 230 9 There, while he was being separated from the siege, he departed for Italy, fearing that he might be deserted by his soldiers, who had attacked the same road as his superiors; and a little later he was consumed by a pestilential wound, when he had made a land sufficiently suitable for the republic by cutting down immense forests and by draining the lake Pelso into the Danube among the Pannonians.
 10 In gratitude for which he called the province Valeria after his wife.
 11 This man had a five-year reign, while Constantius had an annual one, although both had indeed held the power of the Caesars for thirteen years.
 12 Such were the benefits of a wonderful nature that if they proceeded from learned hearts and did not offend with insipidity, they would undoubtedly be considered the most important.
 240 13 Wherefore it has been found that learning, elegance, and courtesy are especially necessary for princes, since without these the goods of nature are looked down upon as if they were unfit or even horrid, and in contrast to them they prepared eternal glory for Cyrus, king of the Persians.
 14 But my memory has carried Constantine, although ready for other virtues, even to the stars, by the wishes of all.
 15 And if he had set a limit to his generosity and ambition by these arts, especially since adult minds, having advanced in the pursuit of glory, would have fallen further into the opposite, he would not have been far from God.
 250 16 When he found the city and Italy devastated, and the armies and two generals driven out or ransomed, he sought peace through Gaul for Maxentius.
 17 At that time, Alexander, acting as prefect among the Carthaginians, had foolishly set his sights on domination, while he himself, being weak in age, more unkind than his rustic and Pannonian parents, had soldiers hastily recruited, and was scarcely able to hold a standard of arms.
 18 Finally, Rufius Volusianus, the praetorian prefect sent by the tyrant with a very small number of cohorts, finished him off in a light fight with the military leaders.
 19 After Maxentius had defeated him, he had ordered Carthage, the glory of the world, and at the same time the most beautiful city in Africa, to be laid waste and burned, a savage and inhuman man, and much more wicked in his lust.
 260 20 Still fearful and weak-willed and foully inclined to idleness, he was so much the worse for weariness, that while his army was burning through Italy and scattered at Verona, he was no less careless in his usual pursuits, nor was he moved by the death of his father.
 265 21 For Herculius, who was naturally more impotent, and at the same time feared the indolence of his son, had unwisely resumed the empire.
 22 And when, under the guise of office, he bitterly tempted his son-in-law Constantine with cunning devices, he finally died justly.
 270 23 But Maxentius, more cruel in nature, having advanced with great difficulty from the city to the red rock about nine thousand days, when, having been defeated in battle, he was fleeing and returning to Rome, he was intercepted by the ambuses

which he had laid for the enemy at the Milvian Bridge, while crossing the Tiber in the sixth year of his tyranny.

275 24 At his death he was filled with incredible joy and gladness. [?] born and the plebs rejoiced; whom he had so afflicted that he once agreed to the massacre of the common people by the praetorians, and was the first to force the fathers and the ploughmen to contribute money to the prodigal by the most wicked design of gifts.

280 25 In their hatred the praetorian legions and the aids more suitable to the factions than to the city of Rome were completely taken away, together with the arms and the use of military clothing.

26 Furthermore, all the works which he had magnificently constructed, the temple and basilica of the city, the fathers dedicated to the merits of Flavius.

285 27 By whom also afterwards the Circus Maximus was wonderfully decorated and the work established for washing was not much different from the others.

28 28 Statues in the most famous places, many of which are of gold or silver; then the priesthood was decreed throughout Africa to the Flavian race, and the town of Cirta, which had fallen during the siege of Alexander, was restored and adorned and given

290 29 the name of Constantine.

29 29 Nothing is more acceptable to the expellers of tyrants, whose favor will ultimately be all the greater if they are modest and abstinent.

30 30 For human minds, frustrated by the hope of good, are more bitterly offended, when, after a change of the wicked ruler, the force of misfortunes remains.

295 41 1 While these things were taking place in Italy, Maximinus, after a two-year reign as Augustus, was driven to the East and perished at Tarsus by Licinius.

2 Thus the power of the Roman world was sought by two men, who, although they were connected to each other through Flavius' sister, who was married to Licinius,

300 30 nevertheless, due to their different manners, were anxiously unable to agree for three years.

3 For in addition to his other great qualities, he possessed the thriftiness and that of a peasant only.

4 Finally, Constantine sheltered and received all his enemies while their honor and fortunes remained, so pious that he was the first to abolish even the ancient and most terrible punishment of the gallows and the breaking of the legs.

305 5 Hence he was regarded as a founder or a god. They did not even torture innocent and noble philosophers in the servile manner.

6 Whom, indeed, having been driven out in various battles, since it seemed difficult to completely overwhelm him, at the same time, out of kinship, a partnership was

310 310 renewed and the common empire of the Caesars was taken by the sons of Crispus and Constantine, born to Flavius, and Licinius to Licinius.

7 Which, indeed, would hardly last long, nor was it revealed to those who assumed it, that it would be happy, by the failure of the sun, which was fouled in the same

315 months.

8 Therefore, six years later, when peace was broken with the Thracians, Licinius, driven out, made way for Chalcedon.

9 There, having co-opted Martinianus into the empire to his aid, he was oppressed together.

320 10 In this way the republic began to be governed by one will, the sons of the Caesars retaining different names: for at that time our emperor Constantius was given the insignia of Caesar.

11 When the eldest son, for some unknown reason, had killed them by his father's judgment, Calocerus, the master of the camel herd, had suddenly seized the island of

325 325 Cyprus, mad with the appearance of a kingdom.

12 Having tortured him, as was fitting, in the manner of a servile or a robber, he devoted his great spirit to the founding of a city and the formation of religions, at the same time renewing the order of the army.

13 And in the meantime the nations of the Goths and Sarmatians were destroyed, and the youngest son of all, named Constans, became Caesar.

330 14 By whose grace the republic was to be united in a strange way; for on the night which followed the day of his assumption of power, the face of the sky was immediately blazing with fire.

15 After this, having almost two-thirds of his brother's son, whom he named Dalmatia after his father, was killed, he ordered Caesar, with the soldiers standing firm.

335 16 Thus in the thirty-second year of his reign, when he had held the whole world for thirteen years, and was sixty-two years old, heading for the Persians, from whom he had begun to break out into war, he departed for the country near Nicomedia (they call it Achyrona), when that dreadful star which they call the Hairy Star had foretold the kingdoms.

17 The funeral was carried to the city of his own name. Which indeed the Roman people bore most painfully, since by whose arms and laws the city of Rome was thought to have been renewed by the clement government.

345 18 A bridge across the Danube; camps and castles conveniently placed in several places.

19 The extra supplies of oil and wheat, by which Tripoli and Nicaea were more bitterly afflicted, were removed.

20 The citizens who had been grateful to the government of Severus had offered them, and the dissimulation of their posterity had turned the gratitude with gifts into the 350 ruin of their posterity. Others Marcus Boionius had afflicted with fines, because they had not known that Hipparchus was a native of the city, with his excellent genius. Fiscal annoyances were more severely pressed, and all would have seemed equal to the divine rite, had he not granted access to the public to those who were not worthy.

355 21 Which, although they occur more frequently, nevertheless in the highest genius and best morals of the republic, even though they are small faults, shine more brightly and are therefore easily noted; nay, they often even more sharply offend, since, due to the glory of the author, they are especially accepted as virtues and are an invitation to be imitated.

360 22 Therefore Dalmatius was immediately killed, at whose instigation it is uncertain; and immediately three years later Constantine fell in a fatal war, at least at the greatest.

23 Constans, more proud of this victory, at the same time a little cautious in his 365 age and vehement in his spirit, still execrable by the wickedness of his ministers and prone to avarice and contempt for the military, was surrounded by the crime of Magnentius, in the tenth year after his triumph, and the movements of foreign nations were suppressed.

24 Of these hostages, having been bought for a price, the more handsome boys than the ??

370 25 But if only these vices had remained! For Magnentius, as a barbarian nation, was so completely destroyed by his terrible and cruel nature, and by what happened afterwards, that that empire was not unjustly desired;

26 and because he was completely unlettered and more foolish than Vetranius, and therefore the worst of the rustic follies, while he was leading soldiers as a foot 375 soldier through the Illyrians, he had wickedly seized the dominion of the upper Moesia, which was born of the Illyrians.

42 1 Constantius, having thrown him out of power in the tenth month, removed him from power into private leisure.

380 2 Which glory, after the birth of the empire, came only from his eloquence and clemency.

3 For when a large part of the armies on both sides had assembled, he held a semblance of a trial, which was to be obtained with almost no difficulty or much blood, and he performed his eloquence.

385 4 Which event sufficiently taught him that he should not only at home but also in the army be able to speak; which at last even steep slopes are made more difficult, if he prevails with modesty and integrity.

5 This was most well known from our prince; whom, however, the harsh winter and the closed Alps delayed, lest he should immediately rush to Italy against other enemies.

390 6 Meanwhile, in Rome, the common people being corrupted, and at the same time the hatred of Magnentius, Nepotianus, a relative of Flavius on his mother's side, having slain the prefect of the city and armed with the hand of gladiators, became emperor.

7 His foolish wit was such a ruin to the Roman people and patricians, that everywhere houses, fora, streets and temples were filled with blood and corpses, in the manner 395 of busts.

8 And not only by him, but also by the arrival of the Magnentians, who on the thirtieth day had beaten the enemy in less than three days.

9 But already before, when external movements were suspected, Magnentius had entrusted Gaul to his brother Decentius, and Constantius to Gallus, whose name he had 400 changed to his own, had entrusted the East to the Caesars.

10 They fought each other in fierce battles for three years; At length Constantius, pursuing the fugitive into Gaul, forced both men to put him to death by various tortures.

11 And in the meantime the Jewish rebellion, which had wickedly raised Patricius to the semblance of kingship, was suppressed.

405 12 Not long afterwards, the Gaul died by order of Augustus, for his cruelty and cruel spirit.

13 Thus, after a long interval of about a year, after his seventieth year, the care

of the republic was brought back to one man.

410 14 Which, having recently calmed down from civil unrest, had begun to be tested again by the imposition of Silvanus on the throne.

15 For Silvanus, born in Gaul of barbarian parents, had at the same time earned the rank of general by passing from Magnentius to Constantius on foot as a youth.

415 16 From which, when he had ascended higher through fear or madness, he was massacred about the twentieth day by a tumult of the legions from whom he had hoped for protection.

17 For this reason, lest anything should be changed among the Gauls by nature, especially the Germans, who were ravaging most of their parts, he appointed Julian Caesar, whom he had adopted as his relative, as governor of Transalpine, and he quickly subdued the savage nations, capturing famous kings.

420 18 Which, although it was due to his strength, nevertheless happened by the prince's fortune and counsel.

19 Which is so remarkable that Tiberius and Galerius, his subjects, experienced many excellent things in others, but less so under his own leadership and auspices.

425 20 But Julius Constantius, who had ruled the august empire for twenty-three years, was exercised only by civil affairs, despite external disturbances, and was reluctant to be absent from arms.

21 Who, having driven out the tyranny of so many and meanwhile sustained the onslaught of the Persians, gave the nation of the Sarmatians a king with great 430 dignity, sitting among them.

22 Which we find that Gnaeus Pompey, in restoring Tigranes, did scarcely a few of his predecessors do.

23 Placid and merciful in business, prudent in elegance of letters, and gentle and pleasant in manner of oratory; patient in labor and wonderfully quick in aiming 435 arrows; conqueror of all lusts and desires; sufficiently pious in the worship of his father and exceedingly devout in his own; knowing the life of good princes to rule the peace of the republic.

24 These great and illustrious efforts to prove the governors of the provinces and the army, together with the absurd manners of the majority of the ministers, have so far disgraced the good of each, neglected.

440 25 And as is true, I will briefly conclude: as for the emperor himself, nothing is more illustrious, so for most of his attendants nothing is more atrocious.