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PROCOPIUS

I

Procopius, of Caesarea.

PROCOPIUS

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

H. B. DEWING

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IN SEVEN VOLUMES

I

HISTORY OF THE WARS, BOOKS I AND II

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON
WILLIAM HEINEMANN LTD
MCMLXI

First printed 1914
Reprinted 1932, 1954, 1961

Printed in Great Britain

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V

1 Ἐπειδὴ δὲ ὁ μὲν χειμὼν ἤδη ὑπέληγε, τρίτον δὲ καὶ δέκατον ἔτος ἐτελεύτα Ἰουστινιανῷ βασιλεῖ τὴν αὐτοκράτορα ἀρχὴν ἔχοντι, Χοσρόης ὁ Καβάδου ἐς γῆν τὴν Ῥωμαίων ἅμα ἦρι ἀρχομένῳ στρατῷ μεγάλῳ ἐσέβαλε, τήν τε ἀπέραντον καλουμένην εἰρήνην λαμπρῶς ἔλυεν. ᾔει δὲ οὐ κατὰ τὴν μέσην τῶν ποταμῶν χώραν, ἀλλὰ τὸν
2 Εὐφράτην ἐν δεξιᾷ ἔχων. ἔστι δὲ τοῦ ποταμοῦ ἐπὶ θάτερα Ῥωμαίων φρούριον ἔσχατον ὃ Κιρκήσιον ἐπικαλεῖται, ἐχυρὸν ἐς τὰ μάλιστα ὄν, ἐπεὶ Ἀβόρρας μὲν ποταμὸς μέγας ἐνταῦθα τὰς ἐκβολὰς ἔχων τῷ Εὐφράτῃ ἀναμίγνυται, τὸ δὲ φρούριον τοῦτο πρὸς αὐτῇ που τῇ γωνίᾳ κεῖται
3 ἣν δὴ τοῖν ποταμοῖν ἡ μίξις ποιεῖται. καὶ τεῖχος δὲ ἄλλο μακρὸν[1] τοῦ φρουρίου ἐκτὸς χώραν τὴν μεταξὺ ποταμοῦ ἑκατέρου ἀπολαμβάνον τρίγωνον
4 ἐνταῦθα ἀμφὶ τὸ Κιρκήσιον ἐπιτελεῖ σχῆμα. διὸ δὴ ὁ Χοσρόης οὔτε φρουριου ἐθέλων οὕτω δὴ ἐχυροῦ ἀποπειρᾶσθαι οὔτε διαβαίνειν ποταμὸν Εὐφράτην διανοούμενος, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ Σύρους τε καὶ Κίλικας ἰέναι, οὐδὲν διαμελλήσας, ἐπίπροσθεν τὸν στρατὸν ἤλαυνε, τριῶν τε σχεδόν τι ὁδὸν ἡμερῶν εὐζώνῳ ἀνδρὶ παρὰ τοῦ Εὐφράτου τὴν ὄχθην ἀνύσας πόλει Ζηνοβίᾳ ἐπιτυγχάνει· ἣν ἡ Ζηνοβία ποτὲ δειμαμένη τὴν ἐπωνυμίαν τῇ
5 πόλει, ὡς τὸ εἰκός, ἔδωκεν. ἦν δὲ ἡ Ζηνοβία Ὀδονάθου γυνή, τῶν ἐκείνῃ Σαρακηνῶν ἄρχοντος,
6 οἳ Ῥωμαίοις ἔνσπονδοι ἐκ παλαιοῦ ἦσαν. οὗτος

[1] μακρὸν VP: μικρὸν G.

V

WHEN the winter was already reaching its close, 540 A.D.
and the thirteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Justinian was ending, Chosroes, son of Cabades, invaded the land of the Romans at the opening of spring with a mighty army, and openly broke the so-called endless peace. But he did not enter by the country between the rivers, but advanced with the Euphrates on his right. On the other side of the river stands the last Roman stronghold which is called Circesium, an exceedingly strong place, since the River Aborras, a large stream, has its mouth at this point and mingles with the Euphrates, and this fortress lies exactly in the angle which is made by the junction of the two rivers. And a long second wall outside the fortress cuts off the land between the two rivers, and completes the form of a triangle around Circesium. Chosroes, therefore, not wishing to make trial of so strong a fortress and not having in mind to cross the River Euphrates, but rather to go against the Syrians and Cilicians, without any hesitation led his army forward, and after advancing for what, to an unencumbered traveller, is about a three-days' journey along the bank of the Euphrates, he came upon the city of Zenobia; this place Zenobia had built in former times, and, as was natural, she gave her name to the city. Now Zenobia was the wife of Odonathus, the ruler of the Saracens of that region, who had been on terms of peace with the Romans

Ὀδονάθος ἀνεσώσατο Ῥωμαίοις τὴν ἑῴαν ἀρχὴν
ὑπὸ Μήδοις γεγενημένην. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν ἐν
7 τοῖς ἄνω χρόνοις ἐγένετο. Χοσρόης δὲ τότε
ἄγχιστά που τῆς Ζηνοβίας ἦκων, ἐπειδὴ τὸ
χωρίον οὔτε ἀξιόλογον ἔμαθεν εἶναι καὶ τὴν
χώραν κατενόησεν ἀοίκητόν τε καὶ πάντων
ἀγαθῶν ἔρημον οὖσαν, δείσας μή τίς οἱ[1] χρόνος
ἐνταῦθα τριβεὶς πράξεσι μεγάλαις ἐπ' οὐδενὶ
ἔργῳ ἐμπόδιος εἴη, ἀπεπειράσατο μὲν ὁμολογίᾳ τὸ
χωρίον ἑλεῖν. ὡς δὲ οὐδὲν προὐχώρει, πρόσω
κατὰ τάχος τὸν στρατὸν ἤλαυνεν.
8 Ὁδόν τε αὖθις τοσαύτην ἀνύσας ἀφίκετο ἐς
πόλιν Σούρων πρὸς τῷ Εὐφράτῃ ποταμῷ οὖσαν,
9 ἧς δὴ ἀγχοτάτω γενόμενος ἔστη. ἐνταῦθα δὲ τῷ
ἵππῳ ξυνέβη ἐφ' οὗ ὁ Χοσρόης ἐκάθητο χρε-
μετίσαι τε καὶ τῷ ποδὶ τὸ ἔδαφος κρούειν. ὃ δὴ
οἱ μάγοι ξυμβαλόντες ἁλώσεσθαι τὸ χωρίον
10 ἀπέφαινον. ὁ δὲ στρατοπεδευσάμενος ἐπὶ τὸν
περίβολον ὡς τειχομαχήσων τὸ στράτευμα
11 ἐπῆγεν. ἐτύγχανε δέ τις ὄνομα μὲν Ἀρσάκης,
Ἀρμένιος δὲ γένος, τῶν ἐνταῦθα στρατιωτῶν
ἄρχων, ὃς τοὺς στρατιώτας ἐς τὰς ἐπάλξεις
ἀναβιβάσας, ἐνθένδε τε μαχόμενος ἰσχυρότατα
καὶ πολλοὺς τῶν πολεμίων κτείνας, τοξεύματι
12 βληθεὶς ἐτελεύτησε. καὶ Πέρσαι μὲν τότε (ἦν
γὰρ τῆς ἡμέρας ὀψὲ) ὡς αὖθις τῇ ὑστεραίᾳ τει-
χομαχήσοντες ἐπὶ τὸ στρατόπεδον ἀνεχώρησαν,
Ῥωμαῖοι δὲ ἀπογνόντες, ἅτε τετελευτηκότος σφίσι
τοῦ ἄρχοντος, ἱκέται διενοοῦντο Χοσρόου γενέ-
13 σθαι· τῇ οὖν ἐπιούσῃ ἡμέρᾳ τὸν τῆς πόλεως
ἐπίσκοπον δεησόμενόν τε καὶ τὸ χωρίον ἐξαιτη-

[1] τίς οἱ VG : πως ὁ P.

from of old. This Odonathus rescued for the Romans the Eastern Empire when it had come under the power of the Medes; but this took place in former times. Chosroes then came near to Zenobia, but upon learning that the place was not important and observing that the land was untenanted and destitute of all good things, he feared lest any time spent by him there would be wasted on an affair of no consequence and would be a hindrance to great undertakings, and he attempted to force the place to surrender. But meeting with no success, he hastened his march forward.

After again accomplishing a journey of equal extent, he reached the city of Sura, which is on the River Euphrates, and stopped very close to it. There it happened that the horse on which Chosroes was riding neighed and stamped the ground with his foot. And the Magi considered the meaning of this incident and announced that the place would be captured. Chosroes then made camp and led his army against the fortifications to assail the wall. Now it happened that a certain Arsaces, an Armenian by birth, was commander of the soldiers in the town; and he made the soldiers mount the parapets, and fighting from there most valiantly slew many of the enemy, but was himself struck by an arrow and died. And then, since it was late in the day, the Persians retired to their camp in order to assail the wall again on the following day; but the Romans were in despair since their leader was dead, and were purposing to make themselves suppliants of Chosroes. On the following day, therefore, they sent the bishop of the city to plead for them and to beg that the town be