

DION AND THE SIBYLS

By Miles Gerald Keon

A CLASSIC CHRISTIAN NOVEL.

"A most capricious course," said Dionysius, "is your suit of claim running. In seeking to recover your family estates, you prudently avoid at first bringing the holder into a court of law; for the judges might shrink from avoiding a title which not only arises out of an express gift of Augustus, but is identical with the title under which half the land of Italy has been held since the battle of Philippi. Instead of an immediate lawsuit, therefore, you try a direct appeal to Augustus, offering to show him that at the very time when your father's estate was taken away he had just rendered the same services for which, had he been willing to accept it, he would, like so many others, have had a right to be endowed with a new estate, taken from some member of the defeated party. But Augustus refers you back to the courts, where, for the two reasons mentioned, you fear the result. But two other reasons might be added for fearing it still more; first, the present holder is dreaded on account of his political power and his station: Tiberius is the man who, by marrying the daughter of Agrippa Vipsanius, has come into possession of your property; secondly, wealth is necessary for the success of such a suit; wealth he has, and wealth you have not. The courts present, consequently, but small hopes; yet you fail to get Augustus to decide your case himself. "Have I correctly stated the position of your affairs?"

"To a nicety," replied Paulus. "Had I interest at court, I should find justice there. "In your case," said Dionysius, "interest at court would be equivalent to justice in the court. As I took precisely this view of the business, and as Augustus has paid me such honor, and shown me such partiality as few have found with him for many years, it occurred to me that if I threw my unclaimed and unexpected interest into the same scale wherein your just demands already lay—"

"Ah! kind and generous friend," interrupted Paulus; "I understand." "Not so kind, nor so generous," replied Dionysius, "to my friend Paulus as I saw Paulus show himself to be the other day before yesterday to a stranger and a slave. But hear me out. No sooner did I tell Augustus that I had a favor to ask of him, then he placed his hand on my mouth, and said, 'I like to hear you talk; but mine has been too busy a life to permit me to draw forth by properly opposing you the full force of your own opinions—or the truth. The truth in these matters (not your affair, Paulus, but philosophy) is the only truth which can interest a man about to die. You must state these views in the presence of young, vigorous, and not pre-occupied intellects. If you hold your own as well against what they can allege as against my objections, submit to me afterward your petition. One thing at a time. This and the like, with the indomitable whim and obstinate waywardness of age, he has continued to fling at me whenever I have renewed the attempt to state your case; and I have done so five or six times. Titus Livy and Quintus Haterius, whom I have consulted, advise me to take literally and in the spirit of downright business this curious caprice. Now, do you know to-night is appointed for a sort of arena-fight? All the gladiatorial intellects of the west are to be arrayed to crush the fantastic theories and pretty delusions of a Greek, an Athenian. All motives chain me, all pleasures prevent me; moreover, honor and truth, to say nothing, my friend, of your own personal future, interdict me from flight."

"Flight!" cried Paulus; "you fly?" "Ah!" said Dionysius; "you know not all that I mean. You and I have been differently reared, yet in the same spirit. However, as you said, when at the risk of your own life you stood between oppression and an innocent young couple, the great Being whom we both expect will be pleased with a willing effort after what is right."

"But here we are at the gates of Formiae. How the palace of the Mamurras glitters! How these narrow streets flare with torches! We must go at a walk. Charioteer, let the litters pass first. Yes, my friend, in the painful position in which I shall be forced to stand to-night (and I blush before-

hand, knowing my incompetence, my ignorance, and the intrinsic difficulty of what I am expected to do, your future fortunes and the rights of your family are by a strange caprice made dependent upon the success with which I may be able to defend ideas of general and unchangeable value, beauty, and truth; ideas which it debases a man not to have, and exalts him to entertain; ideas which were always dear to the greatest minds that have preceded us, and which are reflected in every calm and pure soul, as the stars in fair, sweet lakes, although the putrid, slimy pool, and waters tossed with storms, and an atmosphere darkened with clouds, may forbid the image, by intercepting the heavenly light or defacing the earthly mirror."

While Dionysius thus informed Paulus of the singular and close connection which had arisen between the future prospects of his mother, his sister, and himself, as well as the establishment of their rights, and the success with which Dionysius might this night be able to make good his philosophical doctrines against the wits, the orators, and the sophists of the Augustan court, at the same moment Tiberius was conversing upon the same subject with Domitius Afer and Antistius Labio in a room of the Mamurran palace.

"Just," said he, in continuation of a conversation previously commenced, "as if a person's claim to an estate could be rendered either better or worse by the style of his horsemanship!"

Here Domitius Afer laughed heartily, and showed his admiration of Caesar's wit, Labio, a saturnine, laborious man, son of one of the assassins of Julius Caesar, and author of numberless works, preserved a grim, unsmiling air, as he observed,

"A man may ride over an estate, and over all its hedges and ditches; but he must be no bad rider if he can jump his horse into a title to become its proprietor."

"Nevertheless, the infatuation of Augustus for the Greek friend of the claimant is such that if the Athenian acquires himself successfully to-night in the Maecenas-like criticisms and Plato-like discussions which are, I suspect, to vary our entertainments, he will next suffer the golden-tongued youth to state the case of Paulus Lepidus Aemilius. The effect at which you must aim is to make a fool of the Athenian; and you are the man to do it. Refute every thing he says, ridicule him; cover him with confusion; make him the gibe of the whole court, the derision of the brilliant circle assembling here to-night. Put an end to his influence. We want no more mind-battles in Italy. I set dogs upon a dog. Arouse all your attention. Bend all your energies. Let the stranger retire from among us in disgrace."

That night, the most brilliant company which could then be culled out of the human race was assembled in the central impluvium of the Mamurran palace and its arcades. Lamps, hanging from the festoons of creeping plants which adorned and connected the porphyry pillars of the colonnades mingled their gleam with the light of the moon and stars. The variety of rays, of shadows, of coloring which were thus sprinkled over the flowers, the leaves, the walls and pillars, the faces, figures and dresses, produced a scene which a painter could better render than words can. The central fountain was smitten into a sorcery of tints, as it shed into a large basin of green marble the drooping sheaf of waters, of which the materials were perpetually changing, and the forms and outlines perfectly maintained, or instantly perpetually renewed.

(To be continued)

Susie (at her music lesson).—I'd like to catch an old air I heard in the music-room last night.

Professor.—What air was that?

Susie (demurely).—Oh, it was a millionaire.

Conceited Young Man.—I wonder why that young lady over there looks at me so much?

Sarcastic Young Lady.—She has weak eyes, and the doctor told her to relieve them by looking at something green.

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Lv.	EAST	Ar.
Imp. Lim.	Selkirk, Rat Portage, Fort William, Port Arthur, Toronto, Detroit, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Montreal, Quebec, New York, Boston, Portland, St. John, Halifax. daily	Imp. Lim.
6 45	Molson, Buchan, Milner, Lac du Bonnet. Wed.	21 10
7 00	Selkirk, Molson, Rat Portage and intermediate points	19 30
8 00	Keewatin, Rat Portage, during July and August. daily except Sunday	18 30
13 30	Sat. only. Mon. only Keewatin, Rat Portage, Fort William, Port Arthur, Toronto, Detroit, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Montreal, Quebec, New York, Boston, Portland, St. John, Halifax, and all points east. daily	12 0
20 00	Tr'ns Pass.	Tr'ns Pass.
WEST		
7 45	Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Neepawa, Minnedosa, Yorkton, and intermediate points. daily except Sun.	18 40
8 50	Morris, Winkler, Morden, Manitou, Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Killarney, Boissevain, Deloraine, and intermediate points. daily ex Sun	17 00
Tr'ns Pass.	Portage la Prairie, MacGregor, Carberry, Brandon, Oak Lake, Virden, Elkhorn, Moosomin, Regina, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Banff, Revelstoke, and all points on Pacific Coast; Lethbridge, McLeod, Fernie, and all points in East and West Kootenay. daily	Tr'ns Pass.
9 20	Headingley, Carman, Holland, Cypress River, Glenboro, Souris and intermediate points. daily except Sun.	19 00
9 40	Portage la Prairie, Carberry, Brandon, and intermediate points. daily ex Sun	15 20
16 40	Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Broadview, Regina, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Banff, Revelstoke, and all points on Pacific Coast and in East and West Kootenay. daily	12 20
Imp. Lim.	Stony Mountain, Stonewall, Balmoral, Teulon. daily except Sunday	Imp. Lim.
22 00	Middlechurch, Parkdale, Victoria Park, Lower Fort Garry, West Selkirk, Clendinning, Netley, and Winnipeg Beach. Tues., Thurs., Sat.	5 55
16 15	Winnipeg Beach. Mon., Wed., Fri.	9 45
17 15	Winnipeg Beach. Tues., Thurs., Sat.	8 45
SOUTH		
14 00	Morris, Gretna, Grafton, Grand Forks, Crookston, Fargo, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Chicago, and all points south. daily	13 4
15 45	St. Norbert, Carey, Arnaud, Dominion City, Emerson. daily except Sunday	10 45

Canadian Northern

Lv.	EAST	Ar.
10 20	"Winnipeg to Fort Frances." St. Anne, Giroux, Warroad, Beaudette, Rainy River, Pinewood, Emo, Fort Frances. daily except Sun.	16 25
8 05	"Fort Frances to Port Arthur." Mine Centre, Atikokan, Stanley Jct., Fort William, Port Arthur. Mon., Wed., Fri. Tues., Thurs., Sat.	21 05
SOUTH		
17 20	Twin City Express between Winnipeg, Minneapolis and St. Paul, 14hrs. 20min., via Can. Nor. and Great Nor. Rys. Morris, Emerson, St. Vincent, Crookston, Fergus Falls, Sauk Centre, St. Cloud, Elk River, Minneapolis, St. Paul. daily	10 10
13 45	Minneapolis and St. Paul Express via Can. Nor. and Nor. Pac. Rys. Morris, St. Jean, Letellier, Emerson, Pembina, Grafton, Grand Forks, Crookston, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, The Superiors. daily	13 30
WEST		
10 45	Headingley, Eli, Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Dauphin, and all intermediate points. Tues., Thurs., Sat.	16 15
10 45	Headingley, Eli, Portage la Prairie, Neepawa, Dauphin, and all intermediate points. Mon., Wed., Fri.	16 15
10 45	Gilbert Plains, Grand View, Kamsack, and intermediate points. Tues., Thurs., Sat.	16 15
10 45	Sifton, Minnetonka, Swan River, and all intermediate points. Wed., Thurs., Sat.	16 15
10 45	Bowman, Birch River, Erwood and intermediate points Mon. Wed.	16 15
10 45	Fork River, Winnipegosis Fri., Sat. Sat., Tues.	16 15
7 00	Oak Bluff, Carman, Leary's and intermediate points. Mon., Wed. Fri.	17 50
11 05	St. Norbert, Morris, Roland, Wawanesa, Brandon, Hartney, and intermediate points. daily except Sun.	18 30