

DION AND THE SIBYLS

By Miles Gerald Keon

A CLASSIC CHRISTIAN NOVEL.

thing untrustworthy, and almost wicked, characterized the expression of the head altogether. The jaws were wide, and the neck was extraordinarily deep. The shoulders were not so flat or so thin as the Romans liked them to be; the girth round the heart was vast; the chest broad and full; the body barrel-shaped. The limbs were long, (which, says Captain Nolan, "is weakness not power;") but then the bones were everywhere well covered with muscle, the hind-legs being remarkably straight in the drop; in short, they promised an immense stride when the animal should be urged to his fastest gallop.

"Now," said Paulus, after attentively examining these and a great many other points, which it would be too technical for us to detail, "I see he is not muzzled, but tied by the head, and I perceive a curious arrangement—that platform behind his manger, and raised somewhat higher than it. The object is to feed him thence, and approach him there, I suppose? Moreover, I observe you have pulleys in the roof and broad bands depending from them; do you then lift him off his legs when you groom him?"

Lygdus assented. Paulus, after looking attentively at the animal's hoofs, and forming an idea of the state of his feet, inquired,

"Is he savage to all alike, or can you, for instance, approach him?"

"Sir, I always take my precautions," answered the slave.

Paulus went round, and stood some ten minutes in front of the horse on the raised platform, behind the manger, then shook a double handful of corn down before him and watched him eat it. Satisfied at length with this scrutiny, he now made arrangements for Philip to remain constantly in the stable, even sleeping there at night, and quitting it only to accompany the horse when taken out for exercise; and he made it clearly understood that Philip should superintend the feeding and grooming of the animal till he should be led forth for Paulus to ride him at the appointed time. We have said nothing to explain why the youth did not ride him muzzled, as often and as long as possible, during the two days which were still left for preparation; the fact being that he proposed even now to do so; but found that, not having thought of stipulating for this as one of the conditions, when he had his interview with Tiberius, orders had been given to Lygdus that no person whatever was to mount the horse till the hour when Paulus was to attempt his subjugation, in presence of the court, camp, and people. Very much disappointed, and blaming his own want of foresight in not having extorted so important a right, Paulus now left the reedman "on duty" in the stables, Thellus volunteering to revisit him, and to bring plenty of provisions of all sorts, and thus to save the necessity of purveying for him from the distance of Crispus's inn. When our hero and the gladiator had retired, Philip began to make a couch of fresh and fragrant hay for himself on the platform behind the manger, muttering,

"But, if I sleep, it shall be with one eye open and the other not quite closed. If I find that scoundrel, for he looks a scoundrel, playing any tricks, I'll strangle him so surely as I have five fingers on each hand."

As Philip thus muttered, Lygdus drew nigh and addressed him.

"Your young master, I fear," he said, "has not long to live; no one can ride this horse."

"Three circumstances," replied Philip, seating himself deliberately on a roll of hay, "are unknown to you. I will tell you them. The first is, that this is not at all a case for mere horsemanship, although it is not to be denied that horsemanship is necessary. Courage and wit are more needful than any bodily adroitness in reminding brutes that their master is man. That is the first circumstance. The second is, that my young master learnt his riding among the Aetolians, who are not matched in the world."

"Take a sip of wine," said Lygdus, handing him a flask of hide.

"After you," said the wary old freedman.

Lygdus drank a little, wiped the mouth of the flask with a vine leaf,

and tendered it once more to Philip, saying,

"The first and second of your remarks seem to me to be appropriate, although I think the Gaulish riders equal to the Aetolians. I should like to hear the third circumstance."

Philip sipped some of the wine, gave back the vessel to the slave, and proceeded,

The third has relation to your phrase, 'I fear.' My master, Paulus Lepidus Aemilius, has been born and reared to fear death not overmuch."

"Edepol!" cried Lygdus; "what is to be feared more?"

"Well," said Philip, "various things he fancies, and I fancy so too. Considering that all men must die, and can die only once, and that it has become somehow, I suppose, by practice and decree, as natural as to be born, and that we have been doing nothing for thousands of years but making way for each other in that manner, it would be an error to look upon death as the greatest evil. Why, man, I should go mad if that which none can avoid was the greatest evil that any can occur."

"Edepol!" exclaimed the slave again; you are apparently right. Yet what can be conceived worse than death? You mean immense pain long continuing; in which case a wise man would put an end to himself."

"Wise!" returned Philip; "but it would be useless to reason with such as you. You should have heard, as I have heard him, Dionysius the Athenian upon this topic. When you make such reflections, is it your big toe, for example, or your belly, or your elbow, or any part of your body, that makes them? You may put an end to your body, and we know what becomes of it. When it is no longer fit, as the young Athenian says, to be the house of that which thinks and reflects within it, this last departs; for the body, once dead, ceases to think or reflect, and as soon as the thinker does thus depart, the body rots."

"But that other thing which kept the body from rotting, that other thing which thinks and reflects, and which is conscious that it is always the same, that it always has been itself—that other thing which knows its unalterable identity through all the changes of the body, from squalling childhood to stiff-kneed age—how can that other thing, which may easily depart out of the body and leave it to perish, depart out of itself? A thing may leave another thing; but how can anything be left by itself? When this thing, says Dionysius, goes away from the body, the body always dies. It was, therefore, the body's life. But out of its own self this life cannot go (can anything go out of itself?) and if it goes out of the body unbidden, what will it say to him who had put it therein when he asks, Sentinel, why have you quitted your post? Servant, why have you left your charge? What brings you hither? I am angry with you! What will this always conscious, always identical thing, then reply?"

"You frighten me," said Lygdus. "What, then, can be more feared by a reasonable man than death?"

"My young master, for example," replied Philip, "so long, be it always understood, as he is not his own murderer, would prefer to die in honor than to live in shame. His father, the brave Roman tribune, used to say to him as a boy, that a disgraced life was worse than a useless life, and a useless life worse than a noble death. But who comes hither?"

The interesting little child Caius Caligula, and the boy Herod Agrippa, entered the stables as Philip spoke.

"Oh! there is the big wild horse," cried the sweet infant, who had only just arrived at the use of his reason; "but where is the young man that is to be eaten? I want to tell him what will become of him, and then to watch his face."

"He is, I see, even now coming back," said Philip sternly. He stood up as he spoke, and an instant afterward Paulus, who was attended by the slave Claudius, bearing a basket of provisions for old Philip, crossed the threshold.

(To be continued.)

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| 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.....daily except Sunday | 19 30 |
| 8 00 | Keewatin, Rat Portage, during July and August..... Sat. only..... Mon. only | 18 30 |
| 13 30 | 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 00 |
| Tr'n's Pass. | Tr'n's Pass. | Tr'n's Pass. |
| | WEST | |
| 7 45 | Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Neepawa, Minnedosa, Yorkton, and intermediate points....daily except Sun. Morris, Winkler, Morden, Manitou, Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Killarney, Boissevain, Deloraine, and intermediate points....daily ex Sun | 18 40 |
| 8 50 | Portage la Prairie, MacGregor, Carberry, Brandon, Oak Lake, Virdean, 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 | 17 00 |
| Tr'n's Pass. | Headingley, Carman, Holland, Cypress River, Glenboro, Souris and intermediate points....daily except Sun. | 15 20 |
| 9 20 | Portage la Prairie, Carberry, Brandon, and intermediate points....daily ex Sun | 12 20 |
| 9 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 00 |
| Imp. Lim. | | Imp. Lim. |
| 22 00 | | |
| | NORTH | |
| 16 00 | Stony Mountain, Stonewall, Balmoral, Teulon.....daily except Sunday | 10 20 |
| | Middlechurch, Parkdale, Victoria Park, Lower Fort Garry, West Selkirk, Claudeboye, Netley, and Winnipeg Beach..... Tues., Thurs., Sat. | 9 45 |
| 16 15 | Winnipeg Beach..... Mon., Wed., Fri..... | 8 45 |
| 17 15 | Winnipeg Beach..... Tues., Thurs., Sat..... | |
| | SOUTH | |
| 14 00 | Morris, Gretna, Grafton, Grand Forks, Crookston, Fargo, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Chicago, and all points south.....daily | 13 40 |
| 15 45 | St. Norbert, Carey, Arnaud, Dominion City, Emerson..... | 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, Lethbridge, 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. Mon., Wed., Fri..... | 16 15 |
| 10 45 | Headingley, Eli, Portage la Prairie, Neepawa, Dauphin, and all intermediate points..... Mon., Wed., Fri. Tues., Thurs., Sat..... | 16 15 |
| 10 45 | Miton, Minnionas, Swan River, and all intermediate points..... Wed., Thurs., Sat. Mon., Wed., Fri..... | 16 15 |
| 10 45 | Bowsman, Birch River, Erwood and intermediate points Mon..... Wed. | 16 15 |
| 10 45 | Fork River, Winnipegosis, Fri., Sat..... Sat., Tues. Oak Bluff, Carman, Leary's and intermediate points.... Mon., Wed. Fri..... | 16 15 |
| 7 00 | St. Norbert, Morris, Roland, Wawanesa, Brandon, Hartney, and intermediate points..... daily except Sun..... | 17 50 |
| 11 06 | | 16 30 |