

Heroönpolis, which had revolted, and took it with only a few soldiers, and in only a short time broke up a sedition which had taken place in the Thebaïs on account of the tributes. And at a later time Petronius, when all that countless multitude of Alexandrians rushed to attack him with a throwing of stones, held out against them with merely his own body-guard, and after killing some of them put a stop to the rest. And I have already stated¹ how Aelius Gallus, when he invaded Arabia with a part of the guard stationed in Aegypt, discovered that the people were unwarlike; indeed, if Syllaëus had not betrayed him, he would even have subdued the whole of Arabia Felix.

54. But the Aethiopians, emboldened by the fact that a part of the Roman force in Aegypt had been drawn away with Aelius Gallus when he was carrying on war against the Arabians, attacked the Thebaïs and the garrison of the three cohorts at Syenê, and by an unexpected onset took Syenê and Elephantinê and Philae, and enslaved the inhabitants, and also pulled down the statues of Caesar. But Petronius, setting out with less than ten thousand infantry and eight hundred cavalry against thirty thousand men, first forced them to flee back to Pselchis, an Aethiopian city, and sent ambassadors to demand what they had taken, as also to ask the reasons why they had begun war; and when they said that they had been wronged by the Nomarchs,² he replied that these were not rulers of the country, but Caesar; and when they had requested three days for delibera-

¹ 16. 4. 23.

² "Nome-rulers."

² νομάρχων 3, μονάρχων other MSS.

βουλήν καὶ μηδέν, ὧν ἐχρῆν, ποιούντων, προσβαλὼν ἠνάγκασε προελθεῖν εἰς μάχην, ταχὺ δὲ τροπὴν ἐποίησε, συντεταγμένων τε κακῶς καὶ ὠπλισμένων· μεγάλους γὰρ εἶχον θυρεοὺς, καὶ τούτους ὠμοβοῖνους, ἀμυντήρια δὲ πελέκεις, οἱ δὲ κοντούς, οἱ δὲ καὶ ξίφη. τινὲς μὲν οὖν εἰς τὴν πόλιν συνηλάθησαν, οἱ δ' εἰς τὴν ἐρημίαν ἔφυγον, τινὰς δὲ νῆσος πλησίον ὑπεδέξατο ἐμβάντας¹ εἰς τὸν πόρον, οὐ γὰρ πολλοὶ ἦσαν ἐνταῦθα οἱ κροκόδειλοι διὰ τὸν ροῦν. τούτων δ' ἦσαν καὶ οἱ τῆς βασιλίσσης στρατηγοὶ τῆς Κανδάκης, ἥ καθ' ἡμᾶς ἦρξε τῶν Αἰθιόπων, ἀνδρική τις γυνὴ πεπηρωμένη τὸν ἕτερον τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν· τούτους τε δὴ ζωγρία λαμβάνει ἅπαντας, ἐπιπλεύσας σχεδίαις τε καὶ νανσί, καὶ καταπέμπει παραχρῆμα εἰς Ἀλεξάνδρειαν, ἐπελθὼν τε τὴν Ψέλχιν αἰρεῖ· προσαριθμουμένου δὲ τοῖς ἐαλωκόσι τοῦ πλήθους τῶν πεσόντων ἐν τῇ μάχῃ, τοὺς σωθέντας ὀλίγους παντάπασι γενέσθαι συνέβη. ἐκ δὲ Ψέλχιος ἦκεν εἰς Πρῆμνιν, ἐρυμνὴν πόλιν, διελθὼν τοὺς θίνας, ἐν οἷς ὁ Καμβύσου κατεχώσθη στρατὸς ἐμπεσόντος ἀέμου. προσβαλὼν δὲ ἐξ ἐφόδου τὸ φρούριον αἰρεῖ, καὶ μετὰ ταῦτα ὄρμησεν ἐπὶ Ναπάτων· τοῦτο δ' ἦν τὸ βασίλειον τῆς Κανδάκης, καὶ ἦν ἐνταῦθα υἱὸς αὐτῆς. καὶ αὐτὴ δ' ἐν τιμῇ πλησίον ἴδρυτο χωρίῳ. πρεσβευσαμένης δὲ περὶ φιλίας καὶ ἀποδοῦσης τοὺς ἐκ Συήνης αἰχμαλώτους καὶ τοὺς ἀνδριάντας, ἐπελθὼν λαμβάνει καὶ τὰ Νάπατα, φυγόντος τοῦ παιδός, καὶ κατασκήπτει· ἔξανδραποδισά-

¹ For ἐμβάντας, Jones conj. ἐμβαλόντας.

tion, but did nothing they should have done, he made an attack and forced them to come forth to battle; and he quickly turned them to flight, since they were badly marshalled and badly armed; for they had large oblong shields, and those too made of raw ox-hide, and as weapons some had only axes, others pikes, and others swords. Now some were driven together into the city, others fled into the desert, and others found refuge on a neighbouring island, having waded¹ into the channel, for on account of the current the crocodiles were not numerous there. Among these fugitives were the generals of Queen Candacê, who was ruler of the Aethiopians in my time—a masculine sort of woman, and blind in one eye. These, one and all, he captured alive, having sailed after them in both rafts and ships, and he sent them forthwith down to Alexandria; and he also attacked Pselchis and captured it; and if the multitude of those who fell in the battle be added to the number of the captives, those who escaped must have been altogether few in number. From Pselchis he went to Premnis, a fortified city, after passing through the sand-dunes, where the army of Cambyses was overwhelmed when a wind-storm struck them; and having made an attack, he took the fortress at the first onset. After this he set out for Napata. This was the royal residence of Candacê; and her son was there, and she herself was residing at a place near by. But though she sent ambassadors to treat for friendship and offered to give back the captives and the statues brought from Syenê, Petronius attacked and captured Napata too, from which her son had fled, and rased it to the

¹ See critical note.

U 821 μενος δ' ἀναστρέφει πάλιν εἰς τοῦπίσω μετὰ τῶν
 λαφύρων, δύσοδα κρίνας τὰ προσωτέρω. τὴν δὲ
 Πρῆμιν τειχίσας βέλτιον, φρουρὰν ἐμβαλὼν καὶ
 τροφήν δυεῖν ἐνιαυτῶν τετρακοσίοις ἀνδράσιν,
 ἀπῆρεν εἰς Ἀλεξάνδρειαν. καὶ τῶν αἰχμαλώτων
 τοὺς μὲν ἐλαφυροπώλησε, χιλίους δὲ Καίσαρι
 ἔπεμψε νεωστὶ ἐκ Καντάβρων ἤκοντι, τοὺς δὲ
 νόσοι διεχρήσαντο. ἐν τούτῳ μυριάσι Κανδάκη
 πολλαῖς ἐπὶ τὴν φρουρὰν ἐπῆλθε. Πετρώνιος δ'
 ἐξεβοήθησε καὶ φθάνει προσελθῶν¹ εἰς τὸ φρού-
 ριον, καὶ πλείοσι παρασκευαῖς ἐξασφαλισάμενος
 τὸν τόπον, πρεσβευσαμένων, ἐκέλευσεν ὡς Καί-
 σαρα πρεσβεύεσθαι· οὐκ εἶδέναι δὲ φασκόντων,
 ὅστις εἶη Καῖσαρ καὶ ὅπη βαδιστέον εἶη παρ'
 αὐτόν, ἔδωκε τοὺς παραπέμψοντας· καὶ ἤκον εἰς
 Σάμον, ἐνταῦθα τοῦ Καίσαρος ὄντος καὶ μέλλοντος
 εἰς Συρίαν ἐντεύθεν προῖέναι, Τιβέριον εἰς Ἀρ-
 μενίαν στέλλοντος. πάντων δὲ τυχόντων, ὧν
 ἐδέοντο, ἀφήκεν αὐτοῖς καὶ τοὺς φόρους, οὓς
 ἐπέστησε.

II

1. Πολλὰ δ' εἴρηται περὶ τῶν Αἰθιοπικῶν ἐν
 τοῖς πρότερον, ὥστε συμπεριωδευμένα ἂν εἶη τῇ
 Αἰγύπτῳ καὶ τὰ τούτων. ὡς δ' εἰπεῖν, τὰ ἄκρα
 τῆς οἰκουμένης τὰ παρακείμενα τῇ δυσκράτῳ καὶ
 ἀοικήτῳ διὰ καῦμα ἢ ψῦχος ἀνάγκη ἀποτεύγματα
 εἶναι τῆς εὐκράτου καὶ ἐλαττώματα· ταῦτα δ'

¹ προσελθῶν F and first hand in D, προσεισελθῶν C, προεισ-
 ελθῶν other MSS.

ground; and having enslaved its inhabitants, he turned back again with the booty, having decided that the regions farther on would be hard to traverse. But he fortified Premnis better, threw in a garrison and food for four hundred men for two years, and set out for Alexandria. As for the captives, he sold some of them as booty, and sent one thousand to Caesar, who had recently returned from Cantabria; and the others died of diseases. Meantime Candacê marched against the garrison with many thousands of men, but Petronius set out to its assistance and arrived at the fortress first; and when he had made the place thoroughly secure by sundry devices, ambassadors came, but he bade them go to Caesar; and when they asserted that they did not know who Caesar was or where they should have to go to find him, he gave them escorts; and they went to Samos, since Caesar was there and intended to proceed to Syria from there, after despatching Tiberius to Armenia. And when the ambassadors had obtained everything they pled for, he even remitted the tributes which he had imposed.

II

1. In the earlier parts of my work I have already said many things about the Aethiopian¹ tribes, so that the description of their country may be said to be included with that of Aegypt. In general, the extremities of the inhabited world, which lie alongside the part of the earth that is not temperate and habitable, because of heat or cold, must needs be defective and inferior to the temperate part;

¹ See *Index*, s.v. "Aethiopians."