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Captain Mago's Adventures *Pericla Navarchi Magonis sive expeditio Phoenicia annis ante Christum mille* Opus Francice scripsit Leo Cahun, in Anglicum vertit Helena E. Frewer, Latine interpretatus est Arcadius Avellanus. Mount Hope Classics. Vol. I. \\$. New York City, 37 Wall Street.

W. H. D. Rouse

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CAPTAIN MAGO'S ADVENTURES.

*Pericla Navarchi Magonis sive expeditio
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Vol. I. \$5. New York City, 37 Wall
Street.*

THIS book is one of several stories, translated into Latin by that original scholar, Dr. Avellanus, and apparently used by Mr. E. Parmadee Prentice, (who writes a preface) for the instruction of his children. The *King of the Golden River* has already appeared as *Rex Aurei Rivi*, and there has been a considerable demand for it.

The idea is admirable. It is not new, for *Robinson Crusoe* has already been published in Latin; but it has not hitherto found favour for various reasons. One is, the pedantic method of teaching dear to the hearts of schoolmasters—or at least, if not altogether dear to their hearts, for in an expansive mood they will at times utter heretical sentiments, at least it is sacred in their practice. Another is, that the translators are not careful enough to adapt their style to the needs of schoolboys. *Robinson Crusoe* erred somewhat in this respect, and our readers will see that the learned translator of Mago's adventures is not free from it.

But first let me say that the story is quite the best of its kind I have ever read. It is not one of those horrid shams like Becker's *Gallus*, which give a little rivulet of story in the midst of Alpine precipices of excursus; where the story is in itself thin, often dull, and however good it might be, it would be spoilt by the duty looming in the background, that those excursus must be read. No: it is an admirable tale of adventure, which would enthrall any schoolboy, which has enthralled hosts of French schoolboys, and the reader soon ceases to care that the hero's name is Mago and not Crusoe. There is plenty of learning in it and plenty of information, but it is given so artlessly and with so nice a judgment of time

and proportion that I believe the schoolboy will be quite pleased to have it. I can judge from my own memories that the schoolboys *consule Planco* would have read it with avidity, and I believe the same of the days *consule Georgio*, in spite of John Bull, Sherlock Holmes, and picturedromes. The schoolboy does not really object to information; he only hates to be bored, and so do I still. If any schoolboy sees these lines, he may take my word for it that he will not be bored with Mago.

He will however find the Latin more difficult than it has any need to be. The rules of classical usage are not always followed: *e. g.* 'ac tandem, quin ulla amplius verba fecisset, discessit;' 'nautae armati, lanceis in manibus;' 'ut se Horo pro reliquo vitae tempore devoturus esset,' 'melius quam quicumque vestrum,' 'plecti curavi,' 'vel quicquid aliud,' all from the first few pages. This is the most serious objection to the book, and one which could easily have been removed; for it is not wise, and certainly not necessary, to deviate from correct usage. The other objection, less important, is to the vocabulary. For the translator has used numbers of rare, poetic, or late words, such as *ignivomus*, *harilatio*, *argentifodinis*, many of which are quite easily understood, some of them even ornaments, but they serve to recal the style of Apuleius or Petronius rather than Cicero. And yet Cicero, when he tells a plain tale, and really wants his hearers to understand him, is incomparable, and his vocabulary is large enough for schoolboys. However, this is a minor point; it is the syntax which is the serious one. If Dr. Avellanus should think fit to modify his practice in this respect, the old words would really hurt nobody. Schoolboys have quite a genius for forgetting. In one other respect a change would be useful; if the speaker's name and any descriptive matter were put before each speech, instead of interrupting the speeches in the middle, not only would Latin custom be followed, but the narrative would be clearer.

The book is too expensive to be used in England as a class-book; but a cheaper reprint, with the suggested changes, would make it a very welcome school-reader. As it is, it may be recommended cordially to teachers of Latin. They will certainly enjoy it

themselves; and they may find ways of using it, or parts of it—for example by reading aloud, which will make the name of Avellanus agreeable to the minds of our youth.

W. H. D. ROUSE.

APULEIUS: THE GOLDEN ASS.

Apuleius: The Golden Ass. Being the *Metamorphoses* of Lucius Apuleius. With an English Translation by W. ADLINGTON (1566). Revised by S. GASELEE, Fellow and Librarian of Magdalene College, Cambridge. Frontispiece, portrait of Apuleius on a Coin. One vol. Pp. xxiv+608. London: William Heinemann; New York: The Macmillan Co., 1915. 5s. net. Loeb Classical Library.

IN the introduction to a translation of the *Metamorphoses* of Apuleius published seven years ago, Professor Harold Butler very modestly stated as a justification for his work that "there exists only one English translation of the *Golden Ass* that repays reading. That is the translation of Adlington, which, for all its beauty, is inaccurate and, what is more serious, exceedingly hard to procure." Since these words were written a reprint of Adlington's translation has been issued at a moderate price, but the enterprise of the Loeb Classical Library enables English readers for the first time to enjoy a masterpiece of Elizabethan prose without straying so widely as Adlington himself from the 'strange and absurd words,' the 'new invented phrases' of the original. The present writer has no authority to speak of the textual difficulties which the *Metamorphoses* present, or of the skill with which Mr. Gaselee has exercised his discretion in choosing between many variants. But the revision of Adlington's version has been so excellently carried out that scholars of every degree, and the public who have lost their Latin, are certain to find in this edition the most convenient form in which Apuleius has yet been made available to Englishmen.

This is not the place to pursue an

inquiry into the extent of inaccuracy which can be admitted without spoiling a version, for there can be no question, as Mr. Charles Whibley has shown in his admirable tribute¹ to Adlington's qualities as a translator, that 'The XI Bookes of the Golden Asse' were in their matter but a shadow of the Latin.

It is no less beyond dispute that the conjunction of Apuleius, forcing a great language into shapes which have the metallic brilliance of a crystal about to break down into decay, and Adlington, exulting in the copiousness of the revived English which admitted words from innumerable sources, was singularly happy. A comparison of Mr. Gaselee's revision with Adlington's 1639 edition and the Latin shows that nothing has been lost of the energy of the first inspiration, and numerous improvements added without bringing to the reader's touch a sense of patches in the many-coloured garment in which Adlington fancifully exercised himself. Our own language has only once known that exuberance which gave Adlington phrases like 'a rich Chuffe called Chriseros' for *Chryseros quidam nummularius* (IV. 9), or 'thus we began our subtilty' for *ad hunc modum prioribus inchoatis* (IV. 16), or 'thou trifling boy, thou Varlet' where Venus calls Cupid *nugo et corruptor* (V. 29); and turned *hic* (IX. 35) into 'this young royster,' *avidis animis* (VIII. 28) into 'the greedy whoresons,' and *bellissimus ille pusio* (IX. 7) into 'the minion lover.' But Mr. Gaselee, with admirable vivacity, seizes openings which Adlington missed. He has 'the old trot' for *senile illud facinus* (IV 12),

¹ In his introduction to the reprint of the edition of 1639 in the Tudor translations (David Nutt, 1893).