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SHORT SKETCHES
FROM HISTORY

BOOK II

英語週刊社編

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SHORT SKETCHES FROM HISTORY

BOOK II

LAW OF THE TWELVE TABLES¹

In the year 450 B.C., Rome appointed three ambassadors² to visit Athens, and examine the laws of Solon.³ On their return, in the next year, ten magistrates, called decemvirs,⁴ were chosen. They were to be the ruling power,⁵ and the consuls and tribunes⁶ resigned.⁷ The new rulers did admirably during the first term,⁸ and completed ten tables of excellent laws that were adopted by the Assembly of Centuries.⁹ Decemvirs were therefore chosen for a second term.

Appius Claudius¹⁰ was the most popular of the first body of decemvirs, and the only one who was reelected.¹¹ But now all was quickly changed; the ten men became at once odious tyrants,¹² and Appius Claudius was the chief of all. Each of the decemvirs was attended by twelve lictors,¹³ bearing the fasces¹⁴ with the axes wherever he went in public.¹⁵ Two new tables of oppressive laws, confirming the patricians in their hated privileges,¹⁶ were added to the former tables. When the year expired,¹⁷ the decemvirs called no new election, but held their office in defiance of¹⁸ the senate and the people. No man's life was safe, and many leading persons¹⁹ fled from Rome.

One day, seeing a beautiful maiden, the daughter of a plebeian named Virginius,²⁰ who was crossing the Forum,²¹

¹ Law of the Twelve Tables, 法律十二章. Table, 一塊碑, 因其時無紙筆, 所定法律寫於銅碑之上, 故云. ² Ambassadors, 大使; 全權大臣. ³ Laws of Solon, 梭倫所訂之律. Solon (sō'lŭn), 雅典法律家 (639?-559 B. C.). ⁴ Decemvirs (dē-sēm'vērz), 羅馬治國之十大執政官. ⁵ Ruling power, 統治全國者. ⁶ Consuls and tribunes, 執政官與保民官. ⁷ Resigned, 退職; 引退. ⁸ Term, 任期. ⁹ The Assembly of Centuries, 百人團議會, 按百人團爲 Servius Tullius (sēr'vī-ŭs tŭ'lī-ŭs), 所創設, 其人數雖未必一定爲一百, 然與一百相近, 故謂之百人團. 百

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法 律 十 二 章

西曆紀元前四百五十年，羅馬派大使三人赴雅典考察梭倫之法律。彼等次年歸國後，羅馬即選大政官十人。此十人有施令之全權，而從前所舉之執政官及保民官，今皆退職。第一次所舉之大政官，措施至當，所定法律十章，爲百人團會議所採用。以是羅馬遂有第二任大政官之選舉。

埃劈安克勞狄者，第一任大政官之最孚衆望者也，第二次所選舉之大政官中，惟埃氏復得當選。然一切情形由是大變；此十人立即成爲可憎惡之專制暴君，而以克勞狄爲之魁。凡大政官外出，任赴何所，必有侍臣十二，各執桿一束，斧一柄，以隨其後。彼等復於十章法律之外，增加二章，壓制平民，凡平民所恨毒之貴族特權，皆於此二章中准許之。大政官任期滿後，亦不召集新選舉，但盤據職位，與元老院及人民相抗。人民之生命，無一不在危險之中，羅馬之領袖人物，逃往他處者甚多。

一日，克勞狄見一美麗之女童，行經會議所，

人團之職務，爲參議征收賦稅，選舉官吏，及制定法律等。

¹⁰ Appius Claudius (äp'ī-ūs klou'dī-ūs)，埃劈安克勞狄。¹¹ Reëlected，再得選；第二次當選。¹² Odious tyrants，可憎惡之專制暴君。¹³ Lictors，侍臣；衛卒。¹⁴ Fasces (fäs'ēz)，一束之桿 (lictors 所執者)。¹⁵ Went in public，外出。¹⁶ Confirming the patricians in their hated privileges，准許貴族以素爲平民所恨毒之特權；

確定貴族之特權即平民所恨毒者。¹⁷ Expired，滿期；終了。

¹⁸ In defiance of，與...相抗。¹⁹ Leading persons，領袖人物。

²⁰ Virginius (vēr-jīn'ī-ūs)，味錦尼阿斯。²¹ Forum (fō'rūm)，會議所；古時羅馬城中之會議場所。

Claudius resolved to make her his own. So he directed a client¹ to seize her on the charge² that she was the child of one of his slaves, and then to bring the case before³ the decemvirs for trial. Claudius, of course, decided in favor of⁴ his client. Thereupon Virginius drew his daughter one side from the judgment seat⁵ as if to bid her farewell.⁶ Suddenly catching up a butcher's knife⁷ from a block⁸ near by, he plunged⁹ it into his daughter's heart, crying, "Thus only can I make thee free!"¹⁰

Then brandishing¹¹ the red blade, he hastened to the camp¹² and roused the soldiers, who marched to the city, breathing vengeance.¹³ When they came to the corpse¹⁴ of the spotless¹⁵ Virginia, they swore that Rome should be free. The plebeians flocked out¹⁶ once more to the Sacred Mount.¹⁷ The decemvirs were forced to resign. The tribunes and consuls were restored¹⁸ to power. Appius, in despair, committed suicide.¹⁹

BATTLE OF THE CAUDINE FORKS²⁰

In the year 321 B. C. a Roman²¹ army of forty thousand men, headed by the consul²² Spurius Posthumius,²³ marched against the Samnites.²⁴ They seemed to have been successful in the first few encounters. But later, Pontius,²⁵

¹ Client, 屬民; 羅馬貴族所保護之平民. ² On the charge, 藉口於. ³ To bring the case before, 上其事於; 告發. ⁴ In favor of, 袒護. ⁵ Drew his daughter one side from the judgment seat, 曳其女於審判座之一邊; 將其女引至審判座之一側. ⁶ As if to bid her farewell, 作與彼訣別狀; 一若與彼作別者. ⁷ Butcher's knife, 屠刀. ⁸ Block, 切肉砧. ⁹ Plunged, 戳入. ¹⁰ Thus only can I make thee free, 我之所能使汝自由者惟此耳. ¹¹ Brandishing, 揮舞. ¹² Camp, 軍營. ¹³ Breathing vengeance, 存心報仇; 雪恨. ¹⁴ Corpse (kôrps), 屍體. ¹⁵ Spotless, 無污點;

卽欲奪之爲己有；女童者，平民味錦尼阿斯的
女也。克氏喉其所保護之一平民，藉口此女
爲其奴隸之女，而上其事於大政官，請爲審判。
克勞狄之左袒其人，自不待言。味錦尼阿斯
聞判之後，曳其女於審判座之一邊，一若與之
訣別者。旁有一砧，砧上有屠刀，味錦尼阿斯
直攫此刀，戳入女心，呼曰，“我之所能使汝自
由者，惟此耳！”

味錦尼阿斯既殺其女，卽揮鮮血淋漓之刀，
向軍營中走去，激起衆兵士之公憤，兵士乃入
城復仇。兵抵女屍所，聲言解放羅馬，使得自
由。羅馬人民乃結隊出城，復至聖山集議。
大政官被逼離職。保民官及執政官復行恢
復。埃劈安既失望，卽自殺。

科丁叉口之戰

西曆紀元前三百二十一年，執政官司半利
斯樸秀米斯率羅馬陸軍四萬人，進攻薩謨奈
軍。彼等初戰頗利。但後來薩謨奈之軍統

貞潔。 ¹⁶ Flocked out, 結隊而出。 ¹⁷ Sacred Mount, 聖山，在羅
馬東北三十哩，爲羅馬人民抗爭市民特權暫時徙居集議
之處。 ¹⁸ Restored, 恢復。 ¹⁹ Committed suicide, 自殺。 ²⁰ Caudine
Forks (kó'dín fôrks), 科丁叉口。 ²¹ Roman (rō'mán), 羅馬的。
²² Consul, 羅馬執政官。 ²³ Spurius Posthumius (spûr'î-ûs pöst-hû'-
mî-ûs[?]), 人名。 ²⁴ Samnites (săm'nits), 意大利南部之古民族。
²⁵ Pontius (pôn'ti-ûs[?]), 人名。

the Samnite commander, by a stratagem,¹ enticed² them into an ambush³ at the Caudine Forks, in the neighborhood of Caudium.⁴ High mountains here inclose a little plain,⁵ having at each end a passage through a narrow defile.⁶ When the Romans were fairly in the basin,⁷ the Samnites suddenly appeared in both gorges.⁸ The Romans were taken by surprise⁹ and totally disabled to fight. Posthumius and his men were forced to yield. But instead of being put to death, they were subjected to the deepest humiliation¹⁰ that could be inflicted; for the Samnite leader sent them under the yoke.¹¹

Each man, unarmed and clad only in a shirt,¹² had to pass with bowed heads between two upright spears, upon which rested a third. Having done so, they were made to swear that Rome would never renew the war. Then relying upon their promise, Pontius released and allowed them to go home.

When Posthumius came back to Rome, he was severely reproved¹³ by the senators,¹⁴ who were very angry indeed because he had agreed to fight no more. In their wrath,¹⁵ they vowed¹⁶ that his promise to the Samnites should never be kept. Then Posthumius told them that, since they disapproved of his conduct so greatly, they had better bind him hand and foot,¹⁷ and send him back to the Samnites.

¹ Stratagem (străt'ă-jēm), 機謀. ² Enticed, 引誘. ³ Ambush (ăm'bōosh), 伏兵. ⁴ Caudium (kô'dī-ŭm[?]), 地名. ⁵ Plain, 平原. ⁶ Having at each end a passage through a narrow defile—participial phrase, modifying the noun "plain." Defile, (dě-fil'), 門道. ⁷ Basin, 盤谷. ⁸ Gorges (gôrj'ěz), 谷口. ⁹ Taken by surprise = caught unprepared. ¹⁰ Humiliation (hū-mīl-ī-ă'shŭn), 恥辱. ¹¹ Sent . . . under the yoke, 以槍作拱, 令被擄者由其下而過, 以

本德氏，設計誘羅馬兵入科的姆地方附近之科丁叉口彼已設有伏兵之處。其地四周皆是高山，中有小平原，兩端通路各爲一狹道。羅馬兵既已盡數入此盤谷，谷口伏兵卽一湧而起。羅馬兵驚惶失措，絕無抵抗之力。樸秀米斯及其所統之兵均被迫投降。然彼等並未遇害，但受唯一之大辱，因薩謨奈之首領，令彼等過一槍架也。

降軍人人解除武裝，身穿單衫，俯首而自槍架之下經過。槍架者，以三槍爲之，二槍直立，一槍橫於其上。降軍既經過槍架之後，卽勒令立誓，此後羅馬永不再與薩謨奈開戰。本德憑此誓語，將降軍釋放，許其回羅馬。

樸秀米斯既回羅馬，大爲參議員所斥責，彼等因樸氏訂息戰之約，甚爲忿怒。參議員忿怒之餘，誓言不遵守樸氏與薩謨奈人所立之約。樸氏謂彼等既不以彼所爲爲是，不如捆縛彼之手足，將彼送回薩謨奈營中。

表示屈辱。¹² Unarmed and clad only in a shirt—participial phrase, modifying the noun “man.” Clad=clothed. ¹³ Reproved, 斥責。
¹⁴ Senators (sĕn’á-tĕrz), 參議員。¹⁵ In their wrath—adverbial phrase, modifying the verb “vowed” ¹⁶ Vowed, 立誓。¹⁷ Hand and foot—adverbial phrase, modifying the verb “bind.”

Strange to relate,¹ the senate took advantage of this generosity,² and Posthumius, bound like a criminal,³ was led to the Samnite camp. When the enemy heard that, although bound so securely, he had come there only by his own free will, they were struck with admiration⁴ for his courage. They knew that the Romans were going to continue the war, but they refused to take vengeance on⁵ Posthumius, and sent him home unharmed.

CATO⁶ THE CENSOR⁷

Marcus Porcius Cato was one of the most noted of the Romans during the Punic Wars.⁸ He led an active life. As a young man he fought in the Hannibalic⁹ War, and as an old counselor did more than any other person to bring on the third war, which resulted in the destruction of Carthage.¹⁰

Cato was the son of a peasant at Tusculum.¹¹ From his father he received as an inheritance¹² a scanty¹³ farm in the Sabine country.¹⁴ Near by were the cottage and farm of the celebrated Roman commander Dentatus,¹⁵ one of the popular heroes of the Samnite¹⁶ Wars, of whom tradition related that, when the Samnites on one occasion¹⁷ sought to bribe him, they found him cooking turnips, and wanting nothing that they could give him. Cato took this worthy old Roman as his model.

¹ Strange to relate=it is strange to relate that—parenthetical expression. ² Generosity (jěn-ěr-ōs'í-tǐ), 慷慨. ³ Bound like a criminal—participial phrase, modifying the noun "Posthumius." ⁴ Admiration (ǎd-mǐ-rā'shǔn), 嘉獎; 贊. ⁵ To take vengeance on, 向...報仇. ⁶ Cato (kā'tō), 羅馬哲學家及愛國者 (234-149 B. C.). ⁷ Censor (sěn'sōr or -sēr), 羅馬都察官. ⁸ Punic (pū'nik) Wars, 羅馬與迦太基之戰爭. Punic=pertaining to the

所可異者，參議院竟利用樸秀米斯之慷慨，將彼捆縛如一囚犯，而送之至薩謨奈營中。敵人聞彼雖用繩捆縛，然其來實出於自願，頗驚服其膽量。彼等固知羅馬將繼續作戰，但並不向樸氏報仇，反將樸氏送回，不加傷害。

都察官伽圖小傳

馬卡斯坡基司伽圖，當比尼甲之役，爲羅馬最著名之人物。平生事蹟甚多。少年時，曾參與漢尼拔之戰，既老，爲顧問，鼓起第三次之戰爭，滅迦太基，其功之大，非他人所能比肩。

伽圖生於塔斯邱蘭之農家。彼所受於其父者，僅賽勃因地方之薄田一方。附近有羅馬名將鄧戴端士之草舍及田莊，鄧爲薩謨奈戰爭之著名英雄，相傳薩謨奈人嘗欲行賄於彼，入其家，見其方煮蘿蔔，但不願收受彼等之贈。伽圖卽以此高尚之羅馬人爲範式者也。

ancient Carthaginians. ⁹ Hannibalic (hǎn-i-bǎi'ik), 屬於迦太基大將 Hannibal (hǎn'ī-bǎi) 的。 ¹⁰ Carthage (kār'thāj), 古國名，在非洲之北部。 ¹¹ Tusculum (tūs'kū-lūm), 羅馬東南之城名。 ¹² Inheritance, 遺產。 ¹³ Scanty, 不豐厚的。 ¹⁴ Sabine (sā'bīn) country, 在羅馬之東北。 ¹⁵ Dentatus (děn-tā'tūs), 羅馬執政官之名(生卒不詳)。 ¹⁶ Samnite (sām'nit), 意大利南部之民族，西曆紀元前第四世紀間，嘗與羅馬交戰。 ¹⁷ On one occasion, 有一次。

At his time Greek ideas and customs were being introduced into Rome. Cato set his face like a flint against¹ all these innovations.² He visited Athens³ and made a speech to the people; but instead of addressing the Athenians⁴ in their own language, which he could speak well enough, he talked to them in Latin,⁵ simply in order to rebuke those of his countrymen who affected⁶ to regard the Greek language as better than the Roman. He told the Romans that Greek education and Greek literature and philosophy⁷ would bring their country to ruin.⁸

One of the most unattractive sides of Cato's character is revealed in his treatment of his slaves. He looked upon them precisely as so much live stock, raising⁹ them and disposing of¹⁰ them just as though they were cattle. When a slave became old or worn out he sold him, and recommended such a course to others¹¹ on the ground of its economy.¹²

But notwithstanding all of Cato's faults and shortcomings, his character was noble and admirable. His services, especially those which he rendered the state as censor, were appreciated by his fellow citizens, who set up in his honor a statue with this inscription: "This statue was erected to Cato because when censor,¹³ finding the state of Rome corrupt and degenerate, he, by introducing wise regulations and virtuous discipline, restored it."

¹ Set his face like a flint against=determined to oppose. ² Innovations, 新事物. ³ Athens (ăth'ĕnz), 雅典; 希臘城名. ⁴ Athenians (ă-thĕ'nĭ-ănz), 雅典人. ⁵ Latin (lăt'in), 拉丁語. ⁶ Affected

是時希臘之思想風俗，漸漸輸入羅馬。伽氏對於此種新事物，極端反對之。彼嘗遊雅典，對民衆演說；但彼不用其所嫻熟之雅典語而用拉丁語，因以斥羅馬人之視希臘文爲優勝於羅馬文者之偏見。彼語國人，謂希臘之教育，希臘之文學及哲學，足以使羅馬亡國。

伽氏品行有一缺點，卽其虐待奴隸一事是也。彼視彼等猶如牲畜，養之賣之，不異牛羊。奴隸之年老而衰弱者，彼卽售與他人，且以經濟之理，勸人仿己之法而行。

伽氏雖有過失及缺點，然其品行則高潔而可敬。彼爲都察官時所建之勳業，尤爲國人所重視，故國人爲之立像，刻其上曰：“伽公當羅馬人心不古，世風日下之秋，嘗立智明之法律，及道義之風紀，以救積弊，特建是像，以誌其功。”

=impressed; moved, 感動. ⁷ Philosophy, 哲學. ⁸ Bring . . . to ruin, 使 . . . 滅亡. ⁹ Raising, 生殖. ¹⁰ Disposing of, 賣. ¹¹ Recommended such a course to others, 以此種辦法(指視奴隸爲牛馬, 生殖而售賣之事)教他人. ¹² On the ground of its economy, 以經濟學之理而言. ¹³ When censor=when he was censor.

THE VICTORY OF PYRRHUS¹

The wealthy cities of southern Italy² during the last part of the third century B. C. offered a great tempting prize to Roman greed.³ Before long many of them⁴ received Roman garrisons⁵ and bowed to the rule of the Latin republic.⁶ Tarentum,⁷ the most important of the Greek colonies,⁸ held jealously to her independence. But she was not strong enough to face the Romans, and therefore turned to Pyrrhus, King of Epirus,⁹ for help.

Pyrrhus, an ambitious cousin of Alexander the Great,¹⁰ proudly led into Italy twenty-five thousand soldiers, with a large number of war elephants. The Roman troops met them at Heraclea,¹¹ and a terrible battle ensued. But the Romans could not break the bristling ranks of the Greek phalanx,¹² and shrank back before the huge elephants which they had never seen before. Finally they retreated, and Pyrrhus won the victory. But Pyrrhus lost so many brave soldiers that he exclaimed, "Another such victory, and I am lost." In allusion to this reputed exclamation of his,¹³ a success obtained at too great a cost has since been called a "Pyrrhic¹⁴ victory."

After the war, Pyrrhus walked over the battle field. When he saw the Romans lying with wounds in front,¹⁵ and their countenances¹⁶ stern in death, he cried out, "With such soldiers, how easily could I conquer the world!"

¹ Pyrrhus (pĭr'ūs), 希臘 Epirus 國之國王 (318-272 B. C.).
² Italy (it'a-lĭ), 歐洲南部之國名。 ³ Roman (rō'măn) greed, 羅馬人之貪心。 ⁴ Them=cities. ⁵ Garrisons (gă'r'i-s'nz), 駐紮之軍隊。 ⁶ Latin (lăt'in) republic, 羅馬共和國。 ⁷ Tarentum (tă-răn'-tăm), 意大利古國名, 即今之 Taranto (tă'răn-tō). ⁸ Greek (grĕk) colonies, 希臘殖民地。 ⁹ Epirus, (e-pĭ'rūs), 希臘古國名。
¹⁰ Alexander (ăl-ĕg-zăn'dĕr) the Great, Macedon 國王之名 (356-