EMENDATIONS OF DRACONTIUS’ ROMULEA

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2.15 magna iube, non ausa prius, sublimia manda, o genetrix. quo tela uocas aut quid petis uri, quem diuum modo forte iubes hominum de .

So N, the sole MS authority. The lost syllables in 17 have been variously supplied: hominumue laciesi (Duhn), hominumue peruri (Peiper), hominumue calere (Vollmer), not to mention Bährens’ clumsy rewriting of the line. In view of N’s de I should prefer hominumue dolere. For dolere and dolor in connection with love see Thes. V2(i). 1823. 59-70, 1842. 40-56.

2.37 ut non pia patris oscula nata petat nec natus matris amator dulce nefas cupiat, frater uitietque sororem priuignoque suo potiatur blanda nouerca

potiatur in 40 is inappropriate since, as 44 reddetur et altera Phaedra makes evident, the case of Phaedra and Hippolytus is in mind. Hence Rohde’s moriatur. Another possibility, palaeographically more plausible, is capiatur (c mistaken for t and transposed with p; cf. such errors as fecit for cepit in Prop. 1. 1. 1). ‘Enslaved by love’ is, of course, a common use of capi (see Thes. III. 337. 73–338. 49) and corresponds to cupiat of the preceding verse which alludes to Perdicas (41); for he, like Phaedra, desired inlicitos uiolare toros but did not in fact do so.

2.90 misceturque puer Nymphis sub fronte puellae et causas perquirit Amor, cur fonte relicto terras cauta petit; facilis cui turba fluenti rem pandit, periurat Amor, quasi nescius esset.

Love in disguise asks the water nymphs what they are doing on land.

cauta is patently untenable. Vollmer understands turba from the
next sentence, but it is a waste of time to comment on such extra-
vagances, nor can Bährens' wilful substitution of terrae for cauta and
nata for turba be taken seriously. Rossberg's terrae tuta petant is,
I think, on the right lines, but tuta cannot stand; for land offers no
guarantee of security to waterdwellers and Cupid has no business
to assume that the Naiads have been frightened out of their natural
element. Virg. Aen. 6. 358 paulatim adnabam terrae; iam tuta tenebam
has nothing to do with the case. Write instead terrae sicca petant
(or petunt), comparing Or. 365 litore sicca petiuit; for the genitive
see Kühner-Stegmann II. ii. p. 433. The stages of corruption may
have been (i) terr(a)e sicca to terras icca. (ii) icca to cauta (cau-
from causas above). (iii) petant or petunt to petit (-it from perquirit
above, or, more probably, to suit the supposedly fem. sing. cauta).

5.53-117. Instead of transcribing two pages of Latin I shall ask
readers to refer to this passage in Vollmer's edition; and if they
make sense of what they find there, to read no further.

The piece in which it comes is a rhetorical exercise in verse on a
typical theme: 'A brave man may choose what reward he likes.
A poor man and a rich man are enemies. The rich man fought
bravely; on his return he asked for and was granted a statue by
way of reward. He fought bravely a second time; on his return he
asked as a reward that his statue should be made a sanctuary, and
this was granted. He fought bravely a third time; on his return he
asked as a reward for the head of his enemy, the poor man. The
poor man took refuge at the rich man's statue. Speech against
the rich man.'

After 51 lines of preface the declaimer gets to grips with his
subject. 53-60 offer no serious problem: 'Here is Pauper, an honest
citizen but indigent and lowly; so much so that he would willingly
have become the client of Dives had his services not been despised'.
60-61 introduces the motif which underlies all that follows down
to 98 and becomes explicit in 99-103: nec haec tamen ipsa (sc. uota
ipse N, Vollmer; corr. Rossberg), 'even this little he did not
gain; but is held in fear because of his honesty'. An honest man
among his dependants, it is implied, would be a source of danger
to Dives. 61-71 expands the innuendo: 'Powerful men choose their