486. Petitions to the Epistrategus and Praefect.

34.5 x 26.7 cm. A.D. 131.

This petition to the epistrategus, enclosing a petition to the praefect with his answer, is concerned with the same subject as 472. Dionysia and Sarapion had had a dispute concerning the ownership of some land which Dionysia claimed to have bought from Sarapion’s father, while Sarapion asserted that she held it only on mortgage, combining his claim with a charge of poisoning against Dionysia’s mother, Hermione. The matter came before the epistrategus Claudius Quintianus, who referred it to the praefect and ordered the rival suitors to proceed to Alexandria. Dionysia complied with his instructions, but not Sarapion; and after waiting some time in vain, she petitioned the praefect Flavius Titianus to give her permission to return home (ll. 18–36). To this the praefect replied by referring her back to the epistrategus, who by this time was Julius Varianus (ll. 37–8). Accordingly Dionysia wrote to him re-stating her case, and enclosing her previous petition and the answer to it; and reiterated her request for leave to return to Oxyrhynchus and for the case to be decided there. On the verso in a small cursive hand is the rough draft of another petition of Dionysia on the same subject, but too much obliterated for continuous decipherment.

"Ἰουλίῳ Οδαριανῷ ἐπιστρατηγῷ Ἑπτάνῳ νὸμῶν καὶ Ἀρσινοείτου
παρὰ Διονυσία τῆς Χαίρημονος μητρὸς Ἐρμινῆς τῆς Χαίρημωνος τῶν
ἀπὸ τῆς μητροπόλεως τοῦ Ὀξυρηγχείτου νομοῦ. Ἐνστάσις με[ι] ἀμφι-
σβητήσεις-
ως πρὸς Σαραπιώνα τοῖς Μ[ι]ησιθίου δοσις δ ἡγόρασα κ[τή]μα ἀμ-
πελίκ̣[δ]̣ν καὶ σείτικα
5 ἔδαφη παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς οὐχ[ω]ν ἑτι ἀπὸ τοῦ ιά (ἔτους) Ἀδριαν[οῦ]
Καλαροῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἄμφιμη-
καὶ λαβόντας τὸν καθήκοντα τῆς ἀρχῆς δημόσιον χρηματίσμον ἔλεγεν
ἐν πλάτει
με ἄ[ειν] αὐτά, ἀκούσας Κλαύδιος Κυντιανὸς ὁ γεν[ῆ]μεν ἐπιστράτη-
γος [ὑπερ-
486. PETITIONS

έθετο ἐπὶ τὸν κράτιστον ἡγεμόνα. καὶ γάρ μὲν ἐξήτοτε προσκαρτερῶ τῷ τῷ ἡγεμόνος βῆματι, τῶν δὲ ἀντιδικοῦ ἀνεπιστρεπτηκαστὸν καὶ μὴ παραγωγὸν ἄνεδεικνύει τῷ κρατιστῷ ἡγεμόνι ἀναφορᾶς ὑπέτασιν ἤξα ἑξιστοροῦσα τῇ εἰς... τοῖς πράγμασι παραπέμενε καὶ ἀνέπμενε ἐν ἑπὶ τῶν κόρων κρήσησεν. ἐστὶ δὲ ἡ ἀντιδίκης [ο]ἱδὲ νῦν πάρεστιν ἣν [κα-]

tαστορᾶ ἑπείγει καὶ ἡ ἐπιμέλεια τῶν ὑπὸ τοῦ πολ[α]μοῦ παρασκευο-

15 μένων χρήζει μου τῆς παρουσίας ἀκινήτου ἑλένδον ἱδὲ σου ἑπιτρέψαι μου ἀναπλη-

θομένην ὑπὸ σου ἐπὶ τῶν τιμῶν, ἵνα ἐνεργητικὴν. δεικτεῖ. ἔστιν δὲ ὑπὸ ἑποδείκτην τῷ κρατιστῷ ἡγεμόνι ἀναφορᾶς ἀντίγραφον. [Τ]ῷ τῷ Φλαυρίῳ Τιτίλαμίῳ τῷ κρατιστῷ ἡγεμόνι παρὰ Διονυσίας τῆς Χαιρήμοδος μητρὸς Ἐρμιόνης τῶν ἄνδρων Ὀμυρόχων πόλεως.

20 Σαραπῖδων τις Μησιθέου ἄπο τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως ἐν[...] Κλαυδίου

Κυνηγίαν τοῦ γενομένου ἑπιστρατηγοῦ τῶν ἦτο νομῶν τῇ μητρὶ μου Ἐρμιόνης

φαρμά-

Kαῖας ἐναλὼν καὶ περὶ ὑποχώρησεν τῶν ἐλογοποιήσατο ὡς ὑποστελλο-

των αὐτῶν ὃν ἔγω ἡ Διονυσία κατὰ δημοσίους ἥγορας χρηματι-

σμοῦς ἀριθμάσαν τιμὴν αὐτῶν τῇ τῷ πάτῃ αὐτοῦ περιώντα καὶ διενεισταί τοῦ αὐτοῦ τοῦν

25 πατρὸς παρ᾽ οὗ ἦν τὰ δηλοφόμενα κτήματα ἐν ὑποδήχῃ κρατούμενα

φάκοις κατὰ πλῆθον... [. . .] ἡγεγράφθαι, καὶ τὴν δικήν ὑπόθεσιν ὑπερ-

θεμέλιον τοῦ ἑπιστρατηγοῦ ἐπὶ αὐτῆς ἐν τῶν ὑπερήφανῶν τῆς μὲν μητέ-

ρα μου συνῆθεν ἀποθανεῖν ὑπὸ τῆς δίκης, ἔγω δὲ ἔκτοτε ἐκ τῆς τοῦ

ἐπιστρατηγοῦ ἐπιστολῆς μετὰ τῶν Σαραπῖδων κελευθερών πατὰς[...] εἰς τῆς ἐνθάδε κατηρτείας τοῦ Σαραπῖδων μὲ ἑπιστρατεύοντος ὡστε κατα-

πλεύσαι. ἐπεὶ οὖν ἐνθάδε(ε) μοι διατριβοῦσι ἀπηγέλη τὰ ἐμὰ πάντα}
'To Julius Varianus, epistrategus of the Heptanomis and Arsinoite nome, from Dionysia daughter of Chaeremon, her mother being Hermione daughter of Chaeremon, inhabitants of the metropolis of the Oxyrhynchite nome. A dispute arose between me and one Sarapion son of Mnesitheus, who with regard to a vineyard and some corn-land which I bought from his father as long ago as the 11th year of Hadrianus Caesar the lord, having paid to his father himself and to a creditor of his the price agreed upon and having received the regular official contract of the sale, declared that I held this land on mortgage. Claudius Quintianus who was then epistrategus heard the case and referred it to his highness the praefect. Thereupon I attended at the praefect’s court, and when my opponent paid no attention and failed to appear I presented his highness the praefect with a petition, of which I have appended a copy, narrating in full the state of the affair; and he sent me on to you, my lord, to have the case tried. Since my opponent even now is absent and the time for sowing is imminent and the repair of what has been swept away by the river requires my presence, I beg you, if it please you, to permit me to sail back and have the case decided by you on the spot, that I may obtain redress. Farewell.

The copy of the petition which I presented to his highness the praefect is as follows:—

'To his highness the praefect Titus Flavius Titianus from Dionysia daughter of Chaeremon, her mother being Hermione, inhabitants of Oxyrhynchus. A certain Sarapion son of Mnesitheus, of the said city, charged my mother Hermione before Claudius Quintianus, late epistrategus of the Heptanomis, with poisoning, and at the same time invented a claim with regard to certain property of which he said he was defrauded, but which I, Dionysia, bought in accordance with official contracts, having paid the price of it to his father when he was alive and to creditors of his said father who held the land in question on mortgage; and he asserted that it had been registered in security. The epistrategus referred the whole case to your beneficence, and it happened that my mother died before the trial, while I thereupon in consequence of the letter of the epistrategus ordering me and Sarapion to sail down to Alexandria presented myself here, but Sarapion has paid no attention to the instruction to sail down. Since therefore news has reached me while staying here that all my property has been lost through the excessive rise of the most sacred Nile, both buildings, lands, and dykes, I entreat you, my lord praefect, in the continued absence of my opponent, to permit me to sail back in order that I may obtain justice (there) and that I may not in addition to the loss of my property also perish of hunger, that I may obtain redress. Farewell. The 16th year of Hadrianus Caesar, Phaophi 12. (Endorsed). If this is true, petition the epistrategus, delivering (to him a copy of this).'}
487. PETITIONS

7. ἐν τῷ μεταξὺ χρονοτριγύμων : i.e. the contract drawn up in the presence of officials at the registry office; cf. 99. 2.
37-8. These two lines which contain the answer of the praefect to the petition may be restored on the analogy of e.g. P. Tebt. I. 43. 44 (Διονυσί. ηλί οὗτος ἔχει ἐν τῷ ἐπιστρατηγῷ ἄσοδον [σα τῷ ἀναφέρων].

487. PETITION TO THE EPISTRATEGUS.

A.D. 156.

A petition, written in very bad Greek, to the epistrategus from Nicias, who wished to be relieved of the duty of acting as guardian to two minors.

Στατιλλόφ Μαξίμῳ τῷ κρατίστῳ
ἐπιστρατηγῷ
παρὰ Νικίᾳ Ἀρσάλου ἀντὶ Ὀξυρήγχου πό-
λεως. ὁ τῆς πόλεως χρῆμαματος Σερήνος
και ἐπεδήμακε με εἰς ἐπιτροπὴν ἀφαλίκοιον ηγή-
να Ἀρσάλου Ἀρσάλωνος δύτας [ὁ] αὐτῶν ἐκκο-
σει πέντε καὶ μηδένα πρὸς γένος ἐκ πατρῴο
ὦ μητρῶς αὐτῶν ἄλλοτε ἐχόντων τούτων ἐκ
{κ} τῆς συγγενείας αὐτῶν δυναμένους τὰ τῆς ἐκ-
πειρατῆς αὐτῶν διοικήσει. ἐμοῦ τε καταβαρη-
θῆναι ἐν ταῖς λιτουργίαις καὶ χραίωστοι γενο-
μένου δόμες, κόποι, ἐκατέργασαι τῆς τόχος ὑπὲ-
ρεος ἐλενδου ἐπὶ τῆς ἐμοῦ κατασταθῆναι τῆς τῶν ἀ-
15 φυλακῶν ἐπιτροπῆς ὑπὸ συνθῆκης τῇ γε{γε}ργή-
φι μου προσευχηρίν πρὸς [τὸ] δύνασθε με καὶ τὰ
{κ} τῆς χράσας ἐν ἐμῳ ὀφλῆματα ἀποδοθοῦναι
καὶ μη μεταναστήσης(ς) με τῶν ἱδιῶν τῆς ἐπι-
νομής 

20 εἰκόστο νοῦ τοῦ κρατῆρας Καῖσαρος Τίτου Ἀδίου Ἀδριανοῦ Ἀντωνίνου
Σεβαστῷ Εὐτυχίου ἡμῶν Ἀδριανοῦ η. Νικίας
[Ἀρσάλου ἐπιτροπῆς].