

Latin Text, DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ 1.2.1–6, p. 9

- [1.2] *Apud Helvētios longē nōbilissimus fuit et dītissimus Orgetorix. Is Marcō Messālā et Marcō Pūpiō Pisōne cōsulibus rēgnī cupiditate inductus coniūratiōnem nōbilitātis fēcit et cīvitatī persuāsit ut dē fīnibus suis cum omnibus cōpiīs exīrent:*
- 5 *perfacile esse, cum virtūte omnibus praestārent, tōtius Galliae imperiō potiri.*

Literal Translation Molinari

Among the Helvetii, Orgetorix was by far the most well-known and the richest. This [man], during the consulships of Marcus Messala and Marcus Pupio Piso, led on by desire for political domination, made a conspiracy of the nobility and he persuaded the state to depart [literally, that they should depart] from their boundaries with all their [human] resources: [stating that] it was very easy, inasmuch as they excelled all [people] in respect to manliness, to acquire the rule over all Gaul.

Literal Translation McDevitte

Among the Helvetii, Orgetorix was by far the most distinguished and wealthy. He, when Marcus Messala and Marcus Piso were consuls [61 BCE], incited by lust of sovereignty, formed a conspiracy among the nobility, and persuaded the people to go forth from their territories with all their possessions, [saying] that it would be very easy, since they excelled all in valor, to acquire the supremacy of the whole of Gaul.

Discussion Questions

1. Why were nobility and wealth linked? Why are those with wealth better known? more respected?
2. What were the ultimate aims of Orgetorix? Whom did he enlist in his plan?
3. What was the key quality, according to Orgetorix, that would allow the Helvetii to win their aims?