von Viansino, den rec. größere Bedeutung zuzuweisen, festzustehen scheint. Ausgehend von einer Konjektur H. Dahlmanns 4), der die beiden ut-Sätze trennt, indem er mit dem zweiten einen Vergleichssatz beginnen läßt, will mir scheinen, daß man jede Veränderung des Textes vermeiden kann, wenn man folgendermaßen interpungiert:

Non licet tibi, inquam, flere, ut multos flentes audire possis. Ut periclitantium et ad misericordiam mitissimi Caesaris pervenire cupidiantium lacrimae, tibi tuae assiccandae sunt. (Es ist dir nicht erlaubt, sage ich, zu weinen, damit du viele Weinende anhören kannst. Wie die Tränen derer, die in Gefahr sind und die Gnade des milden Kaizers zu erlangen suchen, so mußt du auch deine eigenen trocknen.)

Der Schluß des Kapitels erhält damit eine etwas überraschende Wendung. Doch die versteckte Schmeichelei, die darin liegt, daß Seneca Polybius fast vorzuwerfen scheint, in seiner Menschenfreundlichkeit an alle Trostbedürftigen, nur nicht an sich selbst zu denken, findet ihre Erklärung in den Hoffnungen, die Seneca in seine Consolatio setzte.

Köln

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1) Es handelt sich dabei sicher um eine Interpolation: ut... pervernire... possint nach dem vorhergehenden ut... audire possis. (vgl. Hermes, Ed. Teubn. 1905).
4) Hermes 72/1937 S. 304f.

THE ASCRIPTION OF A CERTAIN CLASS OF MSS. OF THE DE VIRIS ILLUSTRIBUS OF THE PSEUDO-AURELIUS VICTOR

It was widely held in the Renaissance that the De Viris Illustribus of the (Pseudo-) Aurelius Victor was, as almost all the MSS. indicate, a work of Pliny the Younger. Others held that the work was written by Suetonius, Cornelius Nepos, Hyginus, Asconius Pedianus, or Aemilius Probus 3), but all considered the words of Pliny in a letter to Tacitus (Ep. VI, 20, 5), “posco librum Titi Livi et quasi per otium lego atque etiam, ut coeperam, excerpo”, an evidence for the belief that the work was by Pliny, whether they held them correct or not. Andreas Schottus, who, in 1577, first assigned the work to Aurelius Victor, refers to them bitterly as words “quibus huius libelli auctorem quidam facere se posse confidunt” 2) and points out
their inapplicability, but the revised view, that they were the source of the MS. attribution, seemed probable to Schanz (Gesch. d. röm. Litt. IV, 1, p. 71) as late as 1914. Indeed, I have not been able to find any scholar who has disagreed or offered any alternative reason for this peculiar attribution.

A better reason lies, however, at hand. In the Historia Augusta, Macrinus 4, 2, we find mention of a certain Aurelius Victor "cui Pinio cognomen erat". Some MSS., as has been remarked, ascribe this work to Aurelius Victor. Presumably, therefore, at some earlier stage in the history of this text, a scholar 3) reading the Historia Augusta and finding this passage, remembered the work of the to him unknown Aurelius Victor, and, gratefully, added in his copy the name "Pinius" (or perhaps "Pinio"). He, if not his source, or one of his successors, then corrupted "Pinius" into the better-known "Plinius", the meaningless "Aurelius Victor" was suppressed, and subsequent copyists, in accordance with their learning and ostentation, expanded this name into the various forms which are found today in most of the manuscripts of this text.

These MSS. would then, theoretically, form a separate class, although, if a great deal of contamination is present – as seems likely, although there has not yet been a really thorough examination of all known MSS. of this work – this has probably been rendered valueless as a criterion for editing the text.

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1) Cf. the Teubner edition of Pichlmayr, p. viii. This last attribution is found in a Clermont-Ferrand MS. of the 13th century which is the oldest known MS. of this text, mentioned by Pichlmayr but not consulted by him.

2) Often reprinted, e.g. in the Valpy edition, London, 1829, I, 25. I have not been able to consult his 1577 edition.

3) Of uncertain date, but possibly as late as the 13th century. As noted above, the oldest known MS. of this work is of this date, and all others seem to date from the next century or later.