

## The Patrician Allies of Two Troublesome Tribunes: The Nature of Roman Alliances

### 1. Livy 6.34 (376 BCE)

*ne id nimis laetum parti alteri esset, parva, ut plerumque solet, rem ingentem moliundi causa intervenit. M. Fabi Ambusti, potentis viri cum inter sui corporis homines tum etiam ad plebem, quod haudquaquam inter id genus contemptor eius habebatur, filiae duae nuptae, Ser. Sulpicio maior, minor C. Licinio Stoloni erat, illustri quidem viro tamen plebeio; eaque ipsa adfinitas haud sprete gratiam Fabio ad vulgum quaesierat.*

So that there might not be too much rejoicing on the other side [the patriciate], a small thing, as often happens, set in motion something much larger. **M. Fabius Ambustus, a powerful man among the men of his own order and also with the plebeians, because that group felt that he did not look down upon them whatsoever.** His two daughters were married, the elder to Ser. Sulpicius, the younger to C. Licinius Stolo, a respectable man, however, a plebeian. **That this very marriage alliance was not spurned created good faith for Fabius from the people.**

### 2. Livy 6.34 (376 BCE)

*... ut fateretur eam esse causam doloris, quod iuncta impari esset, nupta in domo quam nec honos nec gratia intrare posset. consolans inde filiam Ambustus bonum animum habere iussit: eosdem propediem domi visuram honores quos apud sororem videat. inde consilia inire cum genero coepit adhibito L. Sextio, strenuo adulescente et cuius spei nihil praeter genus patricium deesset.*

[Fabia Minor] confessed the cause of her grief, **she was married to an inferior man**, married into a house where neither honors nor favor was able to enter. Ambustus consoling his daughter ordered her to maintain high spirits, soon, she will see those same honors which she saw at her sister's house. Then, **he began to make plans with his son-in-law**, with L. Sextius brought in, a vigorous young man, and whose ambitions lacked nothing except patrician status.

### 3. Livy 2.42 (485 – 484 BCE)

*invisum erat Fabium nomen plebi propter novissimum consulem; tenere tamen patres, ut cum L. Aemilio Caeso Fabius consul crearetur. eo infestior facta plebes seditione domestica bellum externum excivit... Fabium inde nomen ingens post tres continuos consulatus unoque velut tenore omnes expertos tribuniciis certaminibus habitum.*

In spite of the hatred which this produced in the plebs against the whole Fabian house, the patricians succeeded in getting Caeso Fabius elected with L. Aemilius as consuls for the next year. This still further embittered the plebeians, and domestic disturbances brought on a foreign war... The Fabian house gained an immense reputation through the three successive consulships of its members, all of whom had been uniformly successful in their resistance to the tribunes. (trans. Loeb)

### 4. Livy 5.35 – 36 (390 BCE)

*legati tres M. Fabi Ambusti filii missi, qui senatus populique Romani nomine agerent cum Gallis -ne a quibus nullam iniuriam accepissent socios populi Romani atque amicos oppugnarent... mitis legatio, ni praeferoces legatos Gallisque magis quam Romanis similes habuisset.*

The three sons of M. Fabius Ambustus were sent as ambassadors to negotiate with the Gauls and warn them not to attack those from whom they had suffered no injury, who were allies and friends of Rome... A peaceable enough mission, had it not contained envoys of a violent temper, more like Gauls than Romans. (trans. Loeb)

**Figure 1: Simplified Family Tree of the Scipiones & Gracchi**

