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The correspondence of M. Tullius Cicero

arranged according to its chronological order

Cicero, Marcus Tullius

Dublin, 1904

Cicero's extant correspondence commences

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PART I.

CICERO'S EXTANT CORRESPONDENCE COMMENCES

B. C. 68 ; A. U. C. 686.

CICERO was now 38 years of age. Eleven years before he had returned from his travels in Greece and Asia, where he had attended lectures in philosophy and rhetoric, and shortly after his return (aged about 29) had married Terentia. At the age of 17 he had served under Cn. Pompeius Strabo in the Marsic War. He had distinguished himself by his speech for P. Quinctius (673, b. c. 81), and by his daring defence of Sex. Roscius Amerinus and an Arretine woman (674, 675, b. c. 80, 79) against the power of Sulla, and had filled the quaestorship at the age of 31 (679, b. c. 75). He had afterwards, in his defence of Q. Roscius Comoedus (678, b. c. 76), more clearly shown his great qualifications for the Bar. But it was not until he was 36 years old (two years before the date of these letters) that his public life may be said to have begun with the prosecution of Verres (684, b. c. 70). The year after this famous prosecution he became curule aedile, and while holding that office made the speech for M. Fonteius, charged with misgovernment in Gaul, and defended A. Caecina. Except the treatise 'De Inventione Rhetorica' (668, b. c. 86), Cicero had contributed to literature only translations from the Greek, most of which he afterwards retouched, as, for instance, the 'Phaenomena' of Aratus. Of these translations only fragmentary remains are preserved.