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The correspondence of M. Tullius Cicero

arranged according to its chronological order

Cicero, Marcus Tullius

Dublin, 1904

Letter of the first year of Cicero's correspondence, ep. 1

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LETTER OF THE FIRST YEAR OF CICERO'S CORRESPONDENCE.

EP. 1.

A. U. C. 686 ; B. C. 68 ; AET. CIC. 38.

COSS. L. CAECILIUS METELLUS, Q. MARCIUS REX.

THE year of these letters was marked (in Cicero's private life) by the death of his cousin Lucius. It must have been a little before this time that his brother Quintus married Pomponia, the sister of Atticus.

CICERO'S CORRESPONDENCE.

I. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 5).

ROME; DECEMBER; A. U. C. 686; B. C. 68; AET. CIC. 38.

De L. Ciceronis fratris patruelis morte, de Q. fratris animo in uxorem suam, Attici sororem, et placando et regendo, de intermissione litterarum, de negotio Acutiliano, de Luceii offensione lenienda, de re Tadiana, de Epirotica emptione Attici, de orando Tusculano, de Terentiae valetudine et humanitate.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Quantum dolorem acceperim et quanto fructu sim privatus et forensi et domestico Luci fratris nostri morte in primis pro nostra consuetudine tu existimare potes. Nam mihi omnia quae iucunda ex humanitate alterius et moribus homini accidere possunt ex illo accidebant. Qua re non dubito quin tibi quoque id molestum sit, cum et meo dolore moveare et ipse omni virtute officioque ornatissimum tuique et sua sponte et meo sermone amantem, adfinem,

1. *fructu*] *Fructus* is not enjoyment simply, but enjoyment with profit. The latter idea predominates here. 'What a loss I have sustained both in public and in private life.' Lucius was the *cousin* of Cicero. In *Fin.* v. 1 he expresses the relationship more accurately in calling him *fratrem cognatione patrualem, amore germanum*. Lucius, according to Asconius (p. 125, Or.), travelled in Sicily with Cicero, to aid him in collecting evidence against Verres. Cp. *Verr.* iv. 145. This explains *forensi*.

humanitate et moribus] 'his kindly disposition': a very mitigated specimen of the ἐν δὴ δῆλον so common in the poets

and in Tacitus. Cp. *pro Cluent.* 111, *mores eius et adrogantiam*. Dr. Reid translates *moribus* 'winning ways,' comparing *Prop.* iv. (v.) 11. 86.

omni . . . ornatissimum] 'graced by every charm of character and manner.' Cf. *virum . . . summo officio ac virtute praeditum*, 2 *Verr.* i. 135, 'a most obliging fellow.'

adfinem] Rather loosely used here; properly speaking, Q. Cicero only was the *adfinis* of Atticus, being the husband of Atticus's sister, Pomponia; not even Marcus, the brother of Quintus, still less Lucius the cousin, was *adfinis* to Atticus in strictness of speech.

amicumque amiseris. 2. Quod ad me scribis de sorore tua, testis erit tibi ipsa quantae mihi curae fuerit, ut Quinti fratris animus in eam esset is qui esse deberet. Quem cum esse offensivorem arbitrarer, eas litteras ad eum misi quibus et placarem ut fratrem et monerem ut minorem et obiurgarem ut errantem. Itaque ex iis quae postea saepe ab eo ad me scripta sunt confido ita esse omnia ut et oporteat et velimus. 3. De litterarum missione sine causa abs te accusor. Numquam enim a Pomponia nostra certior sum factus esse cui dare litteras possem, porro autem neque mihi accidit ut haberem qui in Epirum proficisceretur nequedum te Athenis esse audiebamus. 4. De Acutiliano autem negotio quod mihi mandaras, ut primum a tuo digressu Romam veni, confeceram, sed accidit ut et contentione nihil opus esset et ut ego qui in te satis consili statuerim esse malletm Peducaeam tibi consilium per litteras quam me dare. Etenim cum multos dies auris meas Acutilio dedissem, cuius sermonis genus tibi notum esse arbitror, non mihi grave duxi scribere ad te de illius querimoniis, cum eas audire, quod erat subdiosum, leve putassem.

2. *de sorore tua*] For an admirable account of the pettishness of Pomponia, see Att. v. 1, 2 (185). Cicero appears afterwards to completely absolve his brother from blame in his unhappy domestic relations.

minorem] Quintus was probably about four years younger than M. Cicero—about thirty-four years of age at the date of this letter.

3. *missione*] Bembus conjectures *intermissione*, and this is accepted by Baiter, who compares Fam. vii. 13, 1 (171), where Cic. uses the phrase *intermissionis epistularum*; but that supplies no reason why we should impugn here *missione* of the mss. The phrase may be rendered exactly, 'You have no right to complain of me as a correspondent': quite similarly in Att. iv. 16, 1 (144), Cicero says, *De epistularum frequentia te nihil accuso*, 'I bring no charge touching your regularity as a correspondent,' which is quite as natural a way of speaking as if he had said *infrequentia*, *irregularity*. So here he might have said *intermissione*, but did say (quite as correctly) *missione*: see C. F. W. Müller's learned note in Friedländer's Juvenal on 2. 39. Cf. Att. v. 10, 3 (198), *ut meum consilium saepe reprehendam quod non . . . emersem*,

where *consilium* really means 'my want of prudence.' Cp. Hor. Sat. ii. 4, 85, *haec . . . reprehendi iustius illis*, where *haec* and *illis* are both pregnant, 'their absence can be more justly found fault with than the absence of those things which,' &c. This usage is common in Greek. Mr. Pretor compares Demosth. 1251. 2.

4. *De Acutiliano negotio*] See Att. i. 8, 1 (4), and Att. i. 4, 1 (9). As the latter letter was written in 687 (b. c. 67), the business must have been unfinished at the end of two years. Well might Cicero say *accidit ut contentione nihil opus esset*, 'it so happened that there was no need of any great haste.'

confeceram] Perhaps this may be best taken here as the *epistolary* pluperfect. If not writing a letter, Cic. would have used the imperf. *conficiebam*, 'I meant to finish the business, but,' &c. In a letter, *conficiebam* would mean, 'I am finishing,' so he is forced to use the pluperf., just as in Att. v. 14 (204), *Nunc iter conficiebamus pulverulenta via. Dederam Epheso pridie. Has dedi Trallibus*. See Roby, § 1468.

duxi] One would at first sight expect *duxissem*, which Corradus and Malaspina conjectured, and Bosius pretended to have

Sed abs te ipso qui me accusas unas mihi scito litteras redditas esse, cum et oti ad scribendum plus et facultatem dandi maiorem habueris. 5. Quod scribis, etiam si cuius animus in te esset offensior, a me recolligi oportere, *teneo* quid dicas neque id neglexi, sed est miro quodam modo adfectus. Ego autem quae dicenda fuerunt de te non praeterii: quid autem contendendum esset ex tua putabam voluntate me statuere oportere: quam si ad me perscripseris, intelleges me neque diligentiorum esse voluisse quam tu esses neque negligentiorum fore quam tu velis. 6. De Tadiana re, mecum Tadius locutus est te ita scripsisse, nihil esse iam quod laboraretur, quoniam hereditas usu capta esset. Id mirabamur te ignorare, de tutela legitima in qua dicitur esse puella nihil usu capi posse. 7. Epiroticam emptionem gaudeo tibi placere. Quae tibi mandavi et quae tu intelleges convenire nostro

found in one of his fabricated mss. But *duxi* is quite right. Cicero is defending himself from the charge that he neglected to write, so as to escape the trouble of it. 'Seeing that I endured to listen to Acutilius for several days, I did not think it a great task to write you an account of his complaints, when I made so light of listening to them, which was somewhat a bore.' We should rather have expected a word enhancing the meaning of *odiosum*, than the addition of a prefix like *sub*, which mitigates. Cicero affects words compounded of *sub* in this sense.

unas] *unas litteras*, 'one letter,' there being no ambiguity; but *duae litterae* would be 'two letters of the alphabet.' Two, three letters (epistles), &c., must be expressed by the distributive numeral *binæ, trinæ, &c.*

5. *Quod scribis . . . velis*] 'You write that even if somebody is a little offended with you, my part ought to be to bring about a better feeling: I see what you mean; and I did my best to that end; but he feels the matter very deeply. I did not fail to say all that was needful about your case; but how far I should go in my efforts, I thought I should regulate by your wishes, and when you have communicated these to me, you will see that I did not care to be more busy than you were yourself, and that, on the other hand, I shall not be more remiss than you would wish me to be.'

The reference is to Lucceius, cp. *Fam.* v. 12-15. He mentions the name plainly afterwards (*Ep.* 7. 1: 20. 7). It is,

however, possible that *cuius animus* might be explained as a reference to some general proposition in Att.'s letter. 'I have a right to look to you to mitigate any offence that may be taken.' See *Ep.* xiii. 3. *Teneo* was inserted by Orelli. It might well have fallen out after *-tere*, the last syllable of *oportere*; and it is idle to suppose that the want of a verb here could be accounted for as a justifiable ellipse. The old commentators defended the ellipse as a *loquendi genus comicum*; and this would have great weight if it could be proved, for we shall find many coincidences between Cicero's letters and the comic drama. It is natural that there should be close resemblances between the language of familiar letter-writing and the language of familiar dialogue. See *Introduction*, ii. 2.

6. *De Tadiana re*] Tadius had somehow got into his hands the property of an heiress who was still a ward. He had held her property for two or more years which would give a right to prescriptive ownership. When the property was claimed for the girl by her lawful guardians, Tadius, by the advice of Atticus, pleaded his prescriptive right. Cicero expresses his surprise that Atticus should not know that no prescriptive right can be acquired to the property of a ward under the care of her statutory guardians; cp. *Roby, Roman Private Law*, 227, 474.

7. *Epiroticam*] Near Buthrotum, often mentioned afterwards.

Tusculano, velim, ut scribis, cures, quod sine molestia tua facere poteris. Nam nos ex omnibus molestiis et laboribus uno illo in loco conquiescimus. 8. Q. fratrem cotidie expectamus. Terentia magnos articulorum dolores habet. Et te et sororem tuam et matrem maxime diligit; salutemque tibi plurimam ascribit et Tulliola, deliciae nostrae. Cura ut valeas et nos ames et tibi persuadeas te a me fraterne amari.

8. *articulorum dolores*] 'rheumatism.'

LET

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Tullia
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