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The correspondence of M. Tullius Cicero

arranged according to its chronological order

Cicero, Marcus Tullius

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Letters of the second year of Cicero's correspondence, epp. 2-8

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LETTERS OF THE SECOND YEAR OF CICERO'S CORRESPONDENCE.

EPP. 2-8.

A. U. C. 687; B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

COSS. C. CALPURNIUS PISO, M'. ACILIUS GLABRIO.

THIS was the year in which the tribune L. Roscius Otho assigned special seats in the theatre to the equites, and in which the Lex Gabinia gave such large powers to Pompey to act against the pirates. In this year Cicero's daughter Tullia was betrothed to C. Piso. She cannot have been more than ten years of age at this time.

2. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 6).

ROME; JANUARY (TOWARDS END); A. U. C. 687; B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

De mutuo litterarum commercio, de domo Rabiriana Neapoli a M'. Fonteio empta, de animo Q. fratris in Pomponiam, de patris morte, de Tusculano ornando.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Non committam posthac ut me accusare de epistularum neglegentia possis. Tu modo videto in tanto otio ut par in hoc mihi sis. Domum Rabirianam Neapoli quam tu iam dimensam et exaedificatam animo habebas M'. Fonteius emit HS CCCIOOXXX. Id te scire volui, si quid forte ea res ad cogitationes tuas pertineret.

2. Q. frater, ut mihi videtur, quo volumus animo est in Pomponiam et cum ea nunc in Arpinatibus praediis erat et secum habebat hominem *χρηστομαθῆ*, D. Turranium. Pater nobis decessit

1. *Domum Rab.*] 'Rabirius' seat at Neapolis, which you had already laid out and completed in your mind's eye, M'. Fonteius has bought for 130,000 sesterces' (£1100). *Domum Rabirianam* implies that it was the family mansion; *domum Rabiri* would merely express that it was his dwelling.

2. *Arpinatibus*] The names of the estates of Quintus in Arpinum were Laterium and Arcanum, the latter named apparently from a pagus or castle called Arx, now Rocca d'Arce.

χρηστομαθῆ] 'an adept in *belles lettres*,' 'a man of excellent polite learning.'

Pater nobis d.] This is a *locus vexatissimus*. Madvig, Boot, and others read *decessit* on the ground that Cicero would not have been so unfeeling as to announce his father's death in such curt terms. Boot urges that he is deeply moved at the death of his slave, Sositheus (Ep. 17. 4): he might also have noticed Cicero's almost exaggerated expressions of grief for Lentulus (Att. iv. 6, ep. 110). But if we read *decessit*, we must also read *pater noster decessit*, 'my father left,' instead of *pater nobis decessit*, the ethical dative implying serious loss to oneself. Unless, indeed, we make a

further change, and read *a nobis decessit*; and even then it is not probable that Cicero would write, 'my father has left' without mentioning whither he went, or why he thought the fact worth recording. But the chief argument against *decessit* is the alleged evidence of Asconius that Cicero's father did not die till the year 690 (b. c. 64). The passage of Asc. is, however, highly suspicious. In enumerating the competitors of Cicero for the consulship, Asc., in his commentary on the *Or. in Toga Cand.*, p. 82, writes:—'Duos patricios P. Sulp. Galbam, L. Sergium Catilinam; quattuor plebeios, ex quibus duos nobiles, C. Antonium, L. Cassium Longinum; duo qui tantum non primi ex suis familiis magistratum adepti erant, Q. Cornificium et C. Licinium Sacerdotem. Solus Cicero ex competitoribus equestri erat loco natus, *atque in petitione patrem amisit.*' Could anything be more abrupt or irrelevant than the words in italics? I believe the passage of Asc. is unsound. Very possibly Asc. wrote *omisit*, as Mr. Harrison, of St. John's College, Cambridge, has suggested. It may have been customary in the *profectio* to give the father's name with one's own. Cicero may have excited

a. d. IIII. Kal. Decembris. Haec habebam fere quae te scire vellem. Tu velim, si qua ornamenta γυμνασιώδη reperire poteris quae loci sint eius quem tu non ignoras, ne praetermittas. Nos Tusculano ita delectamur ut nobismet ipsis tum denique cum illo venimus placeamus. Quid agas omnibus de rebus et quid acturus sis fac nos quam diligentissime certiores.

3. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 7.)

ROME; FEBRUARY (BEGINNING); A. U. C. 687; B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

De matre Attici Caecilia, de pecunia L. Cincio constituta, de signis mittendis, de bibliotheca ab Attico conficienda.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Apud matrem recte est eaque nobis curae est. L. Cincio HS xxcd constitui me curaturum Idibus Februariis. Tu velim ea quae nobis emisse *te* et parasse scribis des operam ut quam

comment by omitting this customary formality. If then we may dismiss the testimony of Asconius, there is no urgent reason for doubting that *decessit* is right, and means 'died.' Yet we may acquit Cicero of want of feeling; thus: let us suppose that he had already communicated the death of his father, in a letter to Atticus, now lost; that Atticus in a subsequent letter asked Cicero, 'What did you say was the precise date of your father's death?' and that Cicero here replies *pater nobis decessit a.d. iv. Kal. Dec.*, 'The date of my poor (*nobis*) father's death was the fourth day before the kalends.' *Nobis* is itself a tender expression. Cp. ure *mihī*, Prop. iv. 7, 78. Editors do not sufficiently keep before their minds the fact that much that is difficult in these letters arises from the loss of the replies of Atticus. Prof. A. Palmer acutely suggested a difficulty which besets this attempt to explain *decessit*, 'died,' in a way compatible with Cicero's filial affection. If Cicero writes 'four days before the kalends of Dec.' he is, of course, referring to Nov. 26 of the year 686 (68). Now, it is impossible that a letter could have come from Att. between that date and the end of the year. Either, therefore, our explanation is impossible, or this letter should be referred to the year

687 (67). We do not see any reason against adopting the latter course. The question between *discesserat* and *decesserat* arises again in Fam. v. 14, 1 (585), but there *discesserat* has M on its side.

γυμνασιώδη] '*objets d'art*,' 'articles of vertu.' γυμνάσιον was the name given by the Greeks originally to the places where bodily exercises were performed; but such places were afterwards used by philosophers for lecturing in. Cicero loved to lay out in the neighbourhood of his villas such places for philosophic discussion or for general conversation. These *gymnasia* consisted of a hall with seats called *exedrae*, and a covered colonnade (*xystrus*), or a walk planted with trees for those who preferred to walk during the disquisition or conversation. For Cicero's villa at Tusculum cp. O. E. Schmidt, *Ciceros Villen*, p. 30 ff.

1. *Apud matrem*] 'Your mother and her household are getting on very well.'
constitui] This word seems to indicate a definite arrangement to pay, and if not paid, the debt could be enforced by an *actio pecuniae constitutae*; cp. Att. xvi. 15-5 (807) and Roby, *Roman Private Law*, ii, p. 86, note.

HS xxcd] This very sun, 20,400

primum habeamus, et velim cogites, id quod mihi pollicitus es, quem ad modum bibliothecam nobis conficere possis. Omnem spem delectationis nostrae, quam cum in otium venerimus habere volumus, in tua humanitate positam habemus.

4. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 8).

ROME; FEBRUARY; A. U. C. 687; B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

De matre Caecilia, de controversia Acutiliana, de negotio Tadiano, de Lucecio Attico etiam nunc irato, de pecunia L. Cincio curata, de signis quibus maximo opere delectetur mittendis, de Tullioli munusculum flagitante.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Apud te est ut volumus. Mater tua et soror a me Quintoque fratre diligitur. Cum Acutilio sum locutus. Is sibi negat a suo procuratore quidquam scriptum esse et miratur istam controversiam fuisse quod ille recusarit satis dare **AMPLIUS ABS TE NON PETI**. Quod te de Tadiano negotio decidisse scribis, id ego

sesterces (£173 8s.), is expressed by quite different symbols in Att. i. 8 (4). It should not surprise us to find such latitude in letters. So the horizontal stroke indicating thousands of sesterces has often to be supplied or not, according to the context. Thus in an English letter if we met the expression 'I gave 100 for a horse,' we should guess it meant £100, not 100 shillings; but if we found 'I gave 1000 for a horse, we might not feel quite sure whether the word written was *house* or *horse*. This being so, we follow the practice of those editors who do not supply in the text the horizontal stroke (which is not found in the mss), but leave the symbol as it is found in the mss, adding an explanation, if requisite, in the foot-notes.

conficere] 'secure.'

1. *Apud te est*] 'With your people all is as we wish': Cic. refers to the household of Quintus, where Pomponia was the ruling spirit.

Is sibi negat] 'He says he has received no communication from his agent, and expresses his astonishment that that quarrel between you should have arisen from his refusing to give you a guaranty that there would be no further claim on that head.'

PETI] The present **PETI** is used technically in legal transactions: see Fam. xiii. 28, 2 (523), and Verr. ii. 60, *iudicatum solvi satis duros esse dicebant*. But *petiturum* is found, when the accusative before the verb is expressed; cp. Rosc. Com. 35, *Quid ita satis non dedit AMPLIUS A SE NEMINEM PETITURUM*, and Brut. 18, *non solvam nisi prius a te cavero amplius eo nomine neminem, cuius petitio sit, petiturum*; cp. also Roby, *Roman Private Law*, ii. 383. In Fam. xiii. 28, 2 (523), Klotz gives the whole passage thus: *sunt duo quae te nominatim rogo: primum ut, si quid satis dandum erit, AMPLIUS EO NOMINE NON PETI cures, ut satis detur fide mea, deinde, &c.* Thus it would seem that *cures* is made to govern *peti*. We would read *primum ut, si quid satis dandum erit AMPLIUS EO NOMINE NON PETI, cures ut satis detur fide mea*: 'I beg, first, if any security is to be given guaranteeing the party sued from any further claim on the part of the present claimant, that you will make me responsible for that security.' The words are printed in small capitals to draw attention to the fact that the phrase is a legal formula. The low Latin word for a receipt is *apocha*.

decidisse] 'to settle a matter out of court.' Cp. *transigere*. Both words are found in Verr. ii. 79.

Tadio et gratum esse intellexi et magno opere iucundum. Ille noster amicus, vir mehercule optimus et mihi amicissimus, sane tibi iratus est. Hoc si quanti tu aestimes sciam, tum quid mihi elaborandum sit scire possim. 2. L. Cincio HS CCCLXX CCCCLXXX CCCCLXXX pro signis Megaricis, ut tu ad me scripseras, curavi. Hermae tui Pentelici cum capitibus aëneis de quibus ad me scripsisti iam nunc me admodum delectant. Qua re velim et eos et signa et cetera quae tibi eius loci et nostri studi et tuae elegantiae esse videbuntur quam plurima quam primumque mittas et maxime quae tibi gymnasi xystique videbuntur esse. Nam in eo genere sic studio efferimur ut abs te adiuvandi, ab aliis prope reprehendendi simus. Si Lentuli navis non erit, quo tibi placebit imposito. Tulliola, deliciolae nostrae, tuum munusculum flagitat et me ut sponsorem appellat. Mihi autem abiurare certius est quam dependere.

amicus] *sc.* Luceius.

2. HS CCCLXX CCCCLXXX] See Ep. 3, 1, note.

curavi] 'paid.'

Pentelici] Of marble from Pentelicus (Mendeli).

iam nunc] 'already, even before I have seen them.'

eius loci] 'My articles of *vertu* which may seem suitable to my Academy, my enthusiasm for such things, and your own taste.'

gymnasi xystique] See on Att. i. 6, 2 (2). A *xystus* (ξυστός) was originally the part of a gymnasium wherein the athletes used to scrape (ξύειν) the oil and dust off with strigils. It was afterwards used for any covered place for walking. Vanicek derives it from the polished floor usually found therein (p. 1117).

quo tibi placebit] 'put them on board any vessel you please.'

Tulliola] 'My darling little Tullia is eager for the gift you promised her, and duns me as your representative. I am determined rather to repudiate than to

pay for you.' *Dependere* is a *vox propria* for paying as a representative of another, as is shown by Boot, who compares Fam. i. 9, 9 (153), *dependendum tibi est quod mihi pro illo spondidisti*. Tullia was at this time probably not more than nine years of age. In a letter written the next year (Ep. 7), Cicero tells of her betrothal; but the matter may have been in prospect now, and this may have been a gift promised by Atticus as a betrothal present. Pliny (Epp. v. 10, 1), in a passage, perhaps copied from this letter, writes to a friend: *libera tandem hendecasyllaborum meorum fidem qui scripta tua communibus amicis spondiderunt: appellantur cotidie et flagitantur: ac iam periculum est ne cogantur ad exhibendum formulam accipere* ('receive a summons to produce'). Pliny, in some hendecasyllabic verses, had pledged himself that certain compositions of his friend should appear. There was a special action called *actio depensi* granted to *sponsores* who had paid money against those for whom they had paid it.—Sandars' *Justinian*, p. 354.

5. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 9).

ROME; MARCH OR APRIL; A. U. C. 687; B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

De litteris crebrius ab Attico ad se dandis, de signis sibi mittendis.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Nimum raro nobis abs te litterae adferuntur, cum et multo tu facilius reperias qui Romam proficiscantur quam ego qui Athenas et certius tibi sit me esse Romae quam mihi te Athenis. Itaque propter hanc dubitationem meam brevior haec ipsa epistula est, quod, cum incertus essem ubi esses, nolebam illum nostrum familiarem sermonem in alienas manus devenire.

2. Signa Megarica et Hermas de quibus ad me scripsisti vehementer exspecto. Quidquid eiusdem generis habebis dignum Academia tibi quod videbitur ne dubitaris mittere et arcae nostrae confidito. Genus hoc est voluptatis meae: quae γυμνασιώδη maxime sunt ea quaero. Lentulus navis suas pollicetur. Peto abs te ut haec diligenter cures. Thyillus te rogat et ego eius rogatu Εὐμολπιδῶν πάτρια.

1. *devenire*] 'find its way by chance'; cp. Brut. 157, *consideranti ad quos ista non translata sint, sed nescio quo pacto devenerint*.

2. *Signa Megarica*] of the Megarian marble called κορχίτης λίθος.

Hermas] see note on Ep. 9, 3.

Academia] this is the name given by Cicero to the gymnasium in his Tusculan villa.

arcae] *Ex arca solvere* means to pay in money, not by a draft on a banker; but there is no evidence that *arca* implies a ready-money payment. In Q. Fr. ii. 10 (12), 5 (133), Cicero says, *nihil esse quod posthac arcae nostrae fiducia conturbaret*, 'it will be his own fault if he should fail through any reliance on my purse,' where there is surely no allusion to ready money. The real *antitheton* to

arca is *sacculus* or *loculi*. *Arca* is the rich man's purse, or perhaps rather safe, or strongbox; while *sacculus* is the poor man's money-bag: Juv. xi. 26, *Ignoret quantum ferrata distet ab arca Sacculus*. The words *sacculus* and *loculi* are combined in Mart. v. 39, 7, *excussi loculosque sacculumque*. The word for paying by draft is *scribere nummos*: see on Ep. 66, 7.

Genus, &c.] 'This is the line my fancy takes' (Pretor).

Thyillus] Thyillus, a poet, who afterwards thought of making Cicero's consulship the subject of a poem (Ep. 22, 15). He now asks Atticus for a description of the 'ritual of the Eumolpidae,' priests of the Eleusinian Demeter at Athens. Doubtless Thyillus wished to introduce into some poem an account of the ritual of the Eleusinian mysteries.

6. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 10).

TUSCULANUM; MAY; A. U. C. 687; B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

De tempore litterarum dandarum angusto, de Lucecio iam a se placando, de signis aliisque ornamentis ab Attico sibi curandis, de bibliotheca Attici a se emenda, de Q. fratris animo, de comitiis suis, de Tulliola de munusculo diem dante.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Cum essem in Tusculano—erit hoc tibi pro illo tuo 'Cum essem in Ceramico,'—verum tamen cum ibi essem, Roma puer a sorore tua missus epistulam mihi abs te adlatam dedit nuntiavitque eo ipso die post meridiem iturum eum qui ad te proficisceretur. Eo factum est ut epistulae tuae rescriberem aliquid, brevitate temporis tam pauca cogerer scribere. 2. Primum tibi de nostro amico placando aut etiam plane restituendo polliceor. Quod ego etsi mea sponte ante faciebam, eo nunc tamen et agam studiosius et contendam ab illo vehementius, quod tantam ex epistula voluntatem eius rei tuam perspicere videor. Hoc te intellegere volo, pergraviter illum esse offensum, sed quia nullam video gravem subesse causam, magno opere confido illum fore in officio et in nostra potestate. 3. Signa nostra et Hermeraclas, ut scribis, cum commodissime poteris, velim imponas et si quod aliud οἰκῆιον eius loci quem non ignoras reperies et maxime quae tibi palaestrae gymnasiae videbuntur esse. Etenim ibi sedens haec ad te scribebam, ut me locus ipse admoneret. Praeterea typos tibi mando quos in tectorio atrioli possim inclu-

1. *Cum essem*] 'Being in Tusculanum—there you have a beginning to correspond with your being in Ceramico—being there, however, I received a letter.'

verum tamen] resumes after the parentheses as δ' οὖν and δὴ in Greek, as well as γὰρ (for which Shilleto has so brilliantly vindicated this resumptive force in a note on the *De Fals. Leg.* 371. 4. § 94). *Sed, igitur* are also resumptive particles in Cicero, as *equidem cum audio soerum meam Laeliam (facilius enim . . . didicerunt) sed eam sic audio*, de Or. iii. 45; *recta effectio (κατ'ῄθωσιν enim ita appello,*

&c.), *recta igitur effectio*, Fin. iii. 45. Boot shows that *tamen* has this force in Brut. 101—where *tamen* introduces the parenthesis as well as resumes the narrative. So *ergo, autem*.

2. *amico*] Lucecius.

fore in officio et in nostra potestate] 'that he will be complaisant, and will put himself in my hands.'

3. *Hermeraclas*] See note to Ep. 9, 3. *scribebam*] 'I am writing,' epistolary imperf. See Roby, § 1468.

typos] 'bas-reliefs for insertion in the plaster walls of my antechamber' (Pretor).

dere et putealia sigillata duo. 4. Bibliothecam tuam cave cuiquam despondeas, quamvis acrem amatorem inveneris: nam ego omnis meas vindemiolas eo reservo, ut illud subsidium senectuti parem. 5. De fratre confido ita esse ut semper volui et elaboravi. Multa signa sunt eius rei, non minimum quod soror praegnans est. 6. De comitiis meis et tibi me permisisse memini et ego iam pridem hoc communibus amicis qui te exspectant praedico, te non modo non arcessi a me sed prohiberi, quod intellegam multo magis interesse tua te agere quod agendum est hoc tempore quam mea te adesse comitiis. Proinde eo animo te velim esse, quasi mei negoti causa in ista loca missus esses. Me autem eum et offendes erga te et audies quasi mihi si quae parta erunt non modo te praesente sed per te parta sint. Tulliola tibi diem dat, sponsorem *me* appellat.

7. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 11).

ROME; JULY OR AUGUST; A. U. C. 687; B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

De Luceio praeter expectationem nondum placato, de signis mittendis, de bibliotheca sibi conservanda, de ceteris rebus iam deterioribus.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Et mea sponte faciebam antea et post duabus epistulis tuis perdiligenter in eadem rationem scriptis magno opere sum commotus. Eo accedebat hortator adsiduus Sallustius ut agerem quam diligentissime cum Luceio de vestra vetere gratia reconcilianda. Sed, cum omnia fecissem, non modo eam voluntatem

putealia sigillata] 'embossed well-covers.'

4. *Bibliothecam*] 'Do not on any account betroth your library to anyone, no matter how eager a suitor for it you find. I am hoarding up all my gleanings (savings) to buy it as a support (resource) for my old age.'

6. *De comitiis meis*] For the praetorship, which he filled, A. U. C. 688, B. C. 66.

tibi me permisisse] 'I do not forget that I gave you free permission' (i.e. to stay away). Cf. *neque discessisset a me*

nisi ego ei permisissem, Fam. xiii. 71 (510).

Proinde] 'I should wish you to feel in this matter just as if I had sent you on my own business to the place you are in. And you will find (and hear from our common friends) that my feelings towards you are the same as if any success I may attain (at the election) were attained not only in your presence but through your instrumentality.'

Tulliola] 'My little Tullia is for having the law of you, and is dunning me as your representative.'

eius quae fuerat erga te recuperare non potui, verum ne causam quidem elicere immutatae voluntatis. Tametsi iactat ille quidem illud suum arbitrium et ea quae iam tum cum aderas offendere eius animum intellegebam, tamen habet quiddam profecto quod magis in animo eius insederit, quod neque epistolae tuae neque nostra adlegatio tam potest facile delere quam tu praesens non modo oratione sed tuo vultu illo familiari tolles, si modo tanti putaris, id quod, si me audies et si humanitati tuae constare voles, certe putabis. Ac ne illud mirere cur, cum ego antea significarim tibi per litteras me sperare illum in nostra potestate fore, nunc idem videar diffidere, incredibile est quanto mihi videatur illius voluntas obstinatior et in hac iracundia obfirmatior: sed haec aut sanabuntur cum veneris aut ei molesta erunt in utro culpa erit. 2. Quod in epistula tua scriptum erat, me iam arbitrari designatum esse, scito nihil tam exercitum esse nunc Romae quam candidatos omnibus iniquitatibus, nec quando futura sint comitia sciri. Verum haec audies de Philadelpho. 3. Tu velim quae Academiae nostrae parasti quam primum mittas. Mire quam illius loci non modo usus sed etiam cogitatio delectat. Libros vero tuos cave cuiquam tradas. Nobis eos, quem ad modum scribis, conserva. Summum me eorum studium tenet, sicut odium iam ceterarum rerum: quas tu incredibile est quam brevi tempore quanto deteriores offensurus sis quam reliquisti.

1. *illud suum arbitrium*] 'that arbitration case (decided by you against him) which he is always harping on.' It is a very uncritical expedient to read *tuum* against the mss.

nostra adlegatio] 'the mission to him that I have undertaken.' *Adlegatio* is private; *legatio*, public.

idem] 'however,' the *nom. masc.*

ei molesta] 'he will smart for it who deserves it'—a rather unsympathising sentiment.

2. *arbitrari*] The subject of *arbitrari* is perhaps omitted by Cic., as it would no doubt be easily supplied by the reader. We are not forced to suppose, with Zumpt, that *arbitrari* is here passive. Yet the position of *me*, as well as the *sciri* following, would seem to point to a passive *arbitrari*. The dictionaries quote more than one instance of *arbitrari* passive in Cicero's orations, e.g. Verr. v. 106 (where, however, the reading is doubtful); and Mur. 34, where there is no ms variation:

cp. Caes. B.C. iii. 6. 3. *Arbitrari* is found passive in the comic drama, e.g. Plaut. Epid. 267, but there we meet the active form *arbitrare* more than once (cp. Neue-Wagener, iii³. 24).

nihil tam] 'let me tell you the candidates are harassed to an unprecedented degree with all sorts of unreasonable demands.' The reference is probably to the double postponement of the comitia, owing to the measures against bribery proposed by the tribune, C. Cornelius, and the riots which ensued in consequence of them (Dio Cass. xxxvi. 38, 39; Ascon. p. 58).

3. *Mire quam*] = *θαυμαστος ὄσ*. This is a usage common in the comic drama, as *admodum quam*, Pl. Amph. 541. We find *sane quam*, Q. Fr. ii. 4, 5 (105); *valde quam*, Fam. xi. 13, 3 (859). Livy xxxvi. 25, 3, has *oppido quam*.

quas tu . . . reliquisti] 'you can hardly believe what a great and sudden change for the worse from the state in which you

8. TO ATTICUS, AT ATHENS (ATT. I. 3).

ROME; A. U. C. 687 (TOWARDS END); B. C. 67; AET. CIC. 39.

De morte aviae Attici, de Attico Romae exspectato, de signis ab eo missis, de Luceio nondum Attico placato, de Tullia C. Pisoni Frugi desponsa.

CICERO ATTICO SAL.

1. Aviam tuam scito desiderio tui mortuam esse et simul quod verita sit ne Latinae in officio non manerent et in montem Alba-

left them you will find in public affairs, and in such a short time too.' *Quam brevi tempore* is 'in how short a time'; *quam reliquisti (deteriores)* is 'worse than you left them.'

1. *Aviam*] Does Cicero here seriously announce to Atticus the death of his grandmother, and then pass to jest, and say that her death was due to regret for the long absence of Atticus, adding (in ridicule of the lady, whom we must, with Manutius, conjecture to have been 'too religious') that her death was hastened by a doubt whether the Latin festival would 'come up to time,' and have the due procession of the victims for sacrifice to the sacred mount? Or are we, with Mr. Pretor, to regard the whole statement as a piece of pleasantry—'let me tell you that regret for your prolonged absence has been the death of your grandmother'? We hold the former view for these reasons: (1). There is no objection to it. It conflicts with modern notions of good breeding to announce the death of a relative in such a tone: but would a modern letter-writer announce the betrothal of his daughter in the laconic fashion which Cicero adopts in this letter? Cicero knew that Atticus would not feel any real grief for her death, and there existed then no code of taste which ordained that he should affect to believe that Atticus would be grieved. (2). The jest would be rather poor on Mr. Pretor's hypothesis; and Cicero would have rather said, 'let me tell you your grandmother will not long survive your protracted absence,' *mortuam esse*, not *mortuam esse*. We must again differ from Mr. Pretor in his view that the word understood after *Latinae* is

civitates, not *feriae*. *Latinae* is used for *Latinae feriae* in Q. Fr. ii. 4, 4 (105), and twice in Cicero's poem on his Consulship, preserved in De Div. i. 18. It is a sort of joke to say of a superstitious and nervous old woman that her death was due to a doubt whether the Latin festival would come up to time, and duly perform its rites. The personification of the festival, and the attributing to it conscientious action, is the matter of the joke such as it is. Make *Latinae* agree with *civitates*, and you will have a more regular subject for *manerent* and *adducerent*; but you will also have a serious statement, and not the joke, which lies in the incompatibility of the expression. One may, however, get the meaning which we prefer without personifying *feriae*: the adj. *Latinae* may agree with *mulieres*, the women who would celebrate the Latin festival. Then we should have a regular subject for *manerent*, *adducerent*. Mr. Strachan-Davidson, of Balliol College, Oxford, takes *Latinae* with *civitates*, and explains in a way which certainly saves the joke. The old lady, according to his view, must have been going back to her memory of the Social War, when the fear, *ne Latinae (civitates) in officio non manerent*, must have caused much anxiety. When Cicero wrote, it would be like an alarm 'that Bonaparte was coming' in (say) 1840.

The *Latinae* were celebrated at uncertain periods, as they belonged to the *feriae*, called *conceptivae* because the magistrate had to appoint (*concipere*) the time of their celebration. This was a powerful weapon in the hands of a magistrate, who could, by proclaiming the *feriae Latinae*, suspend public business for a week. See Introduction, i. § 1.

num hostias non adducerent. Eius rei consolationem ad te L. Saufeium missurum esse arbitror. 2. Nos hic te ad mensem Ianuarium exspectamus ex quodam rumore an ex litteris tuis ad alios missis: nam ad me de eo nihil scripsisti. Signa quae nobis curasti, ea sunt ad Caietam exposita. Nos ea non vidimus: neque enim exeundi Roma potestas nobis fuit: misimus qui pro vectura solveret. Te multum amamus quod ea abs te diligenter parvoque curata sunt. 3. Quod ad me saepe scripsisti de nostro amico placando, feci et expertus sum omnia, sed mirandum in modum est animo abalienato: quibus de suspicionibus, etsi audisse te arbitror, tamen ex me cum veneris cognosces. Sallustium praesentem restituere in eius veterem gratiam non potui. Hoc ad te scripsi, quod is me accusare de te solebat: *at in se expertus est illum esse minus exorabilem, meum studium nec sibi nec tibi defuisse.* Tulliolam C. Pisoni L. F. Frugi despondimus.

Eius rei] 'Saufeius (a follower of the Epicurean school, which held that death was no evil) will, I suppose, send you the appropriate consolation for the event.' Saufeius (as we learn from Ep. 35, 1) was only too glad to preach a sermon on such a text. So Cicero says, 'I shall not deprive him of his theme; I shall leave to him the task of offering you consolation.' All this shows clearly that (as Boot says) Cicero knew very well that Atticus did not need much consolation.

This Saufeius was a close friend of Atticus, and Atticus saved his property from confiscation by the triumvirs (Nep. Att. 12-3).

2. *Nos hic te*] 'I am expecting your arrival here by January from some flying rumour, I suppose—or is it from some letter of yours to someone else, for you did not mention it in any letter to me?' Madvig on Fin. ii. 104, *Simonides an quis alius*, has an excellent note on this use of *an*. His conclusion is that comparison of places where it occurs, viz. Fam. vii. 9, 3 (145); Att. i. 3, 2 (8); ii. 7, 3 (34); vii. 1 (284), shows that the phrase is not used for a disjunctive question, *dubium Simonides an quis alius*, but for a direct statement, to which is appended an expression of hesitation about its truth.

3. *Nostro amico*] Luceceius.

Sallustium praesentem] 'I failed to

bring about their former friendship between him and Sallustius, though the latter was on the spot (not absent, as you are). I mention this because Sallustius used to upbraid me with my failure in your case. But he has now found in his own case how sullen Luceceius is, and that no good offices of mine were spared either in his own case or in yours.'

Nec sibi nec tibi] *Meum studium nec tibi defuisse* is the ms, 'that my good offices were not wanting to you either.' This is defensible; but it is a very slight change to read, with Klotz (2nd ed.), *nec sibi nec tibi*. This is much better than the reading of Graevius, *nec tibi nec sibi*, for it supplies a reason for the corruption: the copyist had written the first *nec*, then he raised his eyes and went on after the second *nec*. This is a common cause of error in mss—the next most common to dittography. The term *parablepsy* might conveniently be used to describe this particular case of it. Boot's suggestion for this passage is worth noticing: 'Hoc ad te scripsi quod is me accusare de te solebat; at in se expertus illum esse minus exorabilem, meum studium *negat* tibi defuisse.' This sounds more like Cicero. Perhaps *negabit* would be still better; *NEC TIBI* might easily have taken the place of *negabit tibi*.

L. F.] Luci filio.