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The correspondence of M. Tullius Cicero

arranged according to its chronological order

Cicero, Marcus Tullius

Dublin, 1904

Einleitung

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PART II.

AFTER July, 689 (65), we have no letters from Cicero for more than two years, and only one to him—the letter of Quintus (Ep. 12). His correspondence with Atticus does not recommence for three years and a half. Cicero concludes his last letter (Ep. 11), written July, 689 (65), with the words, *qua re Ianuario mense, ut constituisti, cura ut Romae sis*. Atticus seems to have complied with this request, and he may have remained at Rome for three years, after an absence in Athens of twenty-two years, 667–689 (87–65); but it is equally probable that during the period he paid temporary visits to Epirus. He declined to act as legatus to Q. Cicero when the latter obtained the province of Asia. Cicero's next letter to Atticus (Att. i. 12) was written on the Kalends of January, 693 (61), when Atticus had left Rome for Epirus, where he remained until the end of 694 (60). Atticus then returned to Rome for a few months, but went back to Epirus in May, 695 (59), and remained there till November, when he returned to Rome.

The year of Cicero's celebrated consulship, with C. Antonius as colleague, need not be dwelt on here. It was marked by the delivery of the *Orationes Consulares*, of which a list is given (Att. ii. 1, 3, Ep. 27), in a passage not unreasonably suspected of spuriousness, as it omits the speeches *pro Murena* and *pro C. Pisone*, and contains some rather un-Ciceronian expressions. One of the most important of these speeches was the *or. pro Rabirio*, as it turns mainly on the question whether the senatorial decree *videant consules ne quid detrimenti respublica capiat* really invested the consuls with absolute power over the lives of seditious citizens; and this was the question on which depended the legality or illegality of the execution of Lentulus and his accomplices—the act which led to the exile of Cicero.

For a discussion of Cicero's conduct in the suppression of the Catilinarian conspiracy, and a description of the circumstances which led to his exile and restoration, see Introduction, i. § 1.