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The correspondence of M. Tullius Cicero

arranged according to its chronological order

Cicero, Marcus Tullius

Dublin, 1904

Letters of the seventh year of Cicero's correspondence, epp. 13-16

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LETTERS OF THE SEVENTH* YEAR OF CICERO'S CORRESPONDENCE.

EPP. 13-16.

A. U. C. 692; B. C. 62; AET. CIC. 44.

COSS. D. JUNIUS SILANUS, L. LICINIUS MURENA.

THIS year the Catilinarian conspiracy was completely crushed, and Catiline himself slain (probably in January) in an engagement with Petreius, the legate of Antonius, Cicero's colleague.

Cicero's correspondence recommences with a letter from Q. Metellus Celer and Cicero's answer to it. There is further a letter to Pompey, and a letter to P. Sestius, in which he mentions the purchase of his house on the Palatine from M. Crassus for a very large sum, apparently about £30,000.

At the beginning of the year, Caesar, who was a praetor, proposed to transfer from Catulus to Pompey the dedication of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, and in many ways sought to effect a reconciliation with him. In this course he was aided by the tribune Metellus Nepos, who had refused to allow Cicero to address the people on laying down his consulship. They attempted, in the first half of January, to procure for Pompey the command against Catiline. Caesar and Metellus were suspended from their functions (see note to Ep. 14, 9). Metellus fled to the camp of Pompey. Caesar was reinstated in his office. Caesar, however, gained his point in showing Pompey that their interests were the same.

In this year (about July) Cicero defended P. Sulla, and his former colleague Antonius. He also pleaded the cause of the poet Archias before his brother Quintus, who was one of the praetors.

* That is, the seventh from the commencement of the extant correspondence.

13. FROM Q. METELLUS CELER, IN CISALPINE GAUL
(FAM. v. 1).

JANUARY; A. U. C. 692; B. C. 62; AET. CIC. 44.

Queritur Q. Metellus Celer, qui consule M. Cicerone praetor fuerat, ex praetura autem superiori Galliae procos. praerat, fratrem suum Metellum Nepotem a M. Cicerone in senatu esse oppugnatum.

Q. METELLUS Q. F. CELER PROCOS. S. D. M. TULLIO CICERONI.

1. Si vales, bene est. Existimaram pro mutuo inter nos animo et pro reconciliata gratia nec absentem ludibrio laesum iri nec Metellum fratrem ob dictum capite ac fortunis per te oppugnatum iri. Quem si parum pudor ipsius defendebat, debebat vel familiae nostrae dignitas vel meum studium erga vos remque publicam satis sublevare. Nunc video illum circumventum, me desertum a quibus minime conveniebat. 2. Itaque in luctu et squalore sum, qui provinciae, qui exercitui praesum, qui bellum gero. Quae quoniam nec ratione nec maiorum nostrorum clementia administrastis, non

Procos.] Cicero had given up his right to a province, conceding Macedonia to his colleague, and Cisalpine Gaul to this Q. Metellus Celer, praetor in 691 (63), who is therefore called proconsul, as governor of a province, though he had never been consul. *Proconsul* is the title of one who is sent to a *wartlike* province with a military force; *propraetor* of one sent to a *peaceful* province. Marquardt St. V. i. 521.

1. *ludibrio laesum*] Explained in next letter, § 1, as also *ob dictum* in § 8.

capite ac fortunis] 'should have an assault made on his civil existence and his property.' An exaggeration: see next letter, note on § 9.

per te] Cicero does not use *per* of the active agent: hence in the next letter § 6 we have *ob dictum a me oppugnari*: cp. Krebs-Schmalz, 'Antibarbarus' ii., p. 250.

pudor ipsius] Either (1) 'the respect due to him,' *ipsius* being the objective genitive, like *pudor patris*, Ter. And. 262; or (2) 'his own scrupulousness, the sense of propriety displayed by him,

ipsius being the subjective genitive. The last view is the best: cp. Ep. 30, 18, *omnium qui tecum sunt pudor*; besides Cicero does not use the objective genitive in the case of pronouns, but prepositions, as *in eos, erga me*. Cp. Draeger, Hist. Synt. i. 469.

vos] 'you and your party.' *satis sublevare*, 'prove a sufficient support to him.'

2. *squalore*] Another exaggeration. Metellus Nepos was threatened with deprivation by the senate, and this threat was subsequently carried out. Under these circumstances, had Metellus Celer been in Rome, he might have assumed mourning, but certainly not in his absence from Rome. So above, the *infamia* which would have followed this act of the senate is hyperbolically described as *capitis diminutio*.

nec ratione nec] 'unreasonably, and without the courtesy of the old régime,' a sneer at Cicero as a *novus homo*: in the good old times there were no such clever upstarts as Cicero to make the members of the grand old families look ridiculous

erit mirandum si vos paenitebit. Te tam mobili in me meosque esse animo non sperabam. Me interea nec domesticus dolor nec cuiusquam iniuria ab re publica abducat.

14. TO Q. METELLUS CELER, IN CISALPINE GAUL
(FAM. V. 2).

(IN REPLY TO THE FOREGOING LETTER.)

ROME; JANUARY OR FEBRUARY; A. U. C. 692; B. C. 62; AET. CIC. 44.

M. Cicero superioribus Q. Metelli litteris respondet eo, quod sua in eum officia commemorat, nec fratrem eius se oppugnasse sed oppugnanti restitisse contendit. Laudat Celeris erga fratrem pietatem suamque fidem pollicetur.

M. TULLIUS M. F. CICERO Q. METELLO Q. F. CELERI
PROCOS. S. D.

1. Si tu exercitusque valetis, bene est. Scribis ad me 'te existimasse pro mutuo inter nos animo et pro reconciliata gratia numquam te a me ludibrio laesum iri.' Quod cuius modi sit satis intellegere non possum, sed tamen suspicor ad te esse adlatum me in senatu, cum disputarem permultos esse qui rem publicam a me conservatam dolerent, dixisse a te propinquos tuos, quibus negare non potuisses, impetrasse ut ea quae statuisses tibi in senatu de mea laude esse dicenda reticeres. Quod cum dicerem, illud adiunxi, mihi tecum ita dispartitum officium fuisse in rei publicae salute retinenda, ut ego urbem a domesticis insidiis et ab intestino scelere, tu Italiam et ab armatis hostibus et ab occulta coniuratione defenderes, atque hanc nostram tanti et tam praeclari muneris societatem a tuis propinquis labefactatam, qui, cum tu a me rebus amplissimis atque honorificentissimis ornatus esses, timuissent ne quae mihi pars abs te voluntatis mutuae tribueretur. 2. Hoc in sermone cum a me exponeretur quae mea expectatio fuisset ora-

when they spoke or acted foolishly. But perhaps Metellus wrote some such words as *nec maiorum nostrorum nec clementiae habita ratione*. The sentence as it stands is somewhat strange. However, we are not to look for the clearness and accuracy of Cicero in the letters of his correspondents. See Introduction, ii. § 2.

mobili] 'fickle, changeable'; generally 'excitable, impressionable.' See note to Ep. 53, 5.

sperabam] Cp. for the use of *sperabam*, = 'I apprehended,' 19, 2, *nihil speres mali*; and for *esse*, cp. 27, 11 *speramus esse otium*. So ἐλπίζειν and ἐλπῖς are used of 'foreboding.'

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tionis tuae quantoque in errore versatus essem, visa est oratio non iniucunda et mediocris quidam est risus consecutus, non in te, sed magis in errorem meum et quod me abs te cupisse laudari aperte atque ingenue confitebar. Iam hoc non potest in te non honorifice esse dictum, me in clarissimis meis atque amplissimis rebus tamen aliquod testimonium tuae vocis habere voluisse. 3. Quod autem ita scribis, 'pro mutuo inter nos animo,' quid tu existimes esse in amicitia 'mutuum' nescio; equidem hoc arbitror, cum par voluntas accipitur et redditur. Ego, si hoc dicam, me tua causa praetermissis provinciam, tibi ipse levior videar esse: meae enim rationes ita tulerunt atque eius mei consili maiorem in dies singulos fructum voluptatemque capio. Illud dico, me, ut primum in contione provinciam deposuerim, statim quem ad modum eam tibi traderem cogitare coepisse. Nihil dico de sortitione vestra; tantum te suspicari volo nihil in ea re per collegam meum me insciente esse factum. Recordare cetera: quam cito senatum illo die facta sortitione coegerim, quam multa de te verba fecerim, cum tu ipse mihi dixisti orationem meam non solum in te honorificam, sed etiam in collegas tuos contumeliosam fuisse. 4. Iam illud senatus consultum quod eo die factum est ea praescriptione est ut, dum id exstabit, officium meum in te obscurum esse non possit. Postea vero quam profectus es, velim recordere quae ego de te in senatu egerim, quae in contionibus dixerim, quas ad te litteras miserim. Quae cum omnia collegeris, tum

2. *Iam hoc non*] 'Surely there was no expression of disrespect towards you in my wishing, at the very summit of my glory, to have in attestation of my deserts an expression of opinion from you.' Metellus had complained that Cicero had made him ridiculous, *ludibrio laesum*; Cicero explains that what raised the laugh in the senate was his own ridiculous position in having been baulked of his expected eulogy, and his artless confession that he had counted on it. *Iam* here introduces the *conclusion* or *immediate consequence* of foregoing conditions, as *iam contemni non poteris*, 'surely therefore,' Fin. ii. 84. Below, in § 4, *iam* = 'again, furthermore'; *iam* sometimes = 'for example.'

3. *quid tu existimes*] "I don't know what you conceive 'reciprocity' to be; in

my view it is when there is a mutual interchange of like good feeling."

levior] 'you would take it for a piece of blague'; 'humbug' would convey the meaning exactly, but would, of course, misrepresent the tone.

tibi ipse] Perhaps we should read *tibi ipsi* with Martyni-Laguna, as in 18, 3.

deposuerim] Cp. 27, 3.

nihil] 'that I was privy to all my colleague did.' He hints that his colleague Antonius at his request so managed the *sortitio* (as president of it) that Metellus should be chosen.

4. *praescriptione*] 'preamble.'

Quae cum] "When you have put all these acts of mine together, I will leave you to judge yourself whether your recent approach to the city was an example of 'reciprocity.'" Probably Metellus drew near to Rome in the winter of 691, 692

ipse velim iudices satisne videatur his omnibus rebus tuus adventus, cum proxime Romam venisti, mutue respondisse. 5. Quod scribis de 'reconciliata gratia' nostra, non intellego cur reconciliatam esse dicas quae numquam imminuta est. 6. Quod scribis non oportuisse Metellum fratrem tuum 'ob dictum a me oppugnari,' primum hoc velim existimes, animum mihi istum tuum vehementer probari et fraternam plenam humanitatis ac pietatis voluntatem: deinde, si qua ego in re fratri tuo rei publicae causa restiterim, ut mihi ignoscas: tam enim sum amicus rei publicae quam qui maxime. Si vero meam salutem contra illius impetum in me crudelissimum defenderim, satis habeas nihil me etiam tecum de tui fratris iniuria conqueri. Quem ego cum comperissem omnem sui tribunatus conatum in meam perniciem parare atque meditari, egi cum Claudia uxore tua et cum vestra sorore Mucia, cuius erga me studium pro Cn. Pompei necessitudine multis in rebus perspexeram, ut eum ab illa iniuria detererent. 7. Atque ille, quod te audisse certo scio, pridie Kal. Ianuarias, qua iniuria nemo umquam in minimo magistratu improbissimus civis adfectus est, ea me consulem adfecit, cum rem publicam conservassem, atque abeuntem magistratu contionis habendae potestate privavit: cuius iniuria mihi tamen honori summo fuit. Nam cum ille mihi nihil nisi ut iurarem permetteret, magna voce iuravi verissimum pulcherrimumque ius iurandum, quod populus idem magna voce me vere iurasse iuravit. 8. Hac accepta tam insigni iniuria, tamen illo ipso die misi ad Metellum communis amicos qui agerent cum eo ut de illa mente

(63, 62), as a demonstration in support of his brother, Q. Metellus Nepos, as Mr. Watson suggests. This was when Metellus Nepos prevented Cicero from addressing the people on laying down his office, on the ground that he had slain Roman citizens without trial.

6. *humanitatis ac pietatis*] 'natural affection.'

quam qui maxime] cf. Fam. xiii. 3 (260), and Reid on Sull. 87.

nihil me etiam] 'not yet.' Cp. *non dico fortasse etiam quod sentio*, Tusc. i. 12.

Claudia] the sister of Clodius. She is identified with the 'Lesbia' of Catullus. She was afterwards suspected of poisoning her husband, Metellus.

sorore] Mucia was half-sister of the two Metelli. She was the wife of Pompey and was afterwards divorced by him. Cp. 17, 2.

pro] 'in virtue of.'

7. *quod populus idem*] Cf. de Rep. i. 7, . . . *salvam esse consulatu abiens in contione P. R. idem iurante iuravissent*. This passage defends the *iurasse iuravit* which offended some editors, and leads us to restore *idem* of the mss for the conjecture *item*; thus *idem* agrees with *quod*, and is governed by *iuravit*, the words *me vere iurasse* being explanatory of *quod idem*, 'which same oath the people took (in swearing) that I had sworn truly.' Plut. Cic. 23 says, ἐπὶ μὲν δὲ τὸν ἕρκον αὐτῷ σῆμας ὁ δῆμος.

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desisteret: quibus ille respondit sibi non esse integrum: etenim paullo ante in contione dixerat ei qui in alios animum advertisset indicta causa dicendi ipsi potestatem fieri non oportere. Hominem gravem et civem egregium! qui, qua poena senatus consensu bonorum omnium eos adfecerat qui urbem incendere et magistratus ac senatum trucidare, bellum maximum conflare voluissent, eadem dignum iudicaret eum qui curiam caede, urbem incendiis, Italiam bello liberasset. Itaque ego Metello fratri tuo praesenti restiti. Nam in senatu Kal. Ian. sic cum eo de re publica disputavi ut sentiret sibi cum viro forti et constanti esse pugnandum. A. d. tertium Non. Ianuar. cum agere coepisset, tertio quoque verbo orationis suae me appellabat, mihi minabatur, neque illi quidquam deliberatius fuit quam me, quacumque ratione posset, non iudicio neque disceptatione sed vi atque impressione evertere. Huius ego temeritati si virtute atque animo non restitsem, quis esset qui me in consulatu non casu potius existimaret quam consilio fortem fuisse? 9. Haec si tu Metellum cogitare de me nescisti, debes existimare te maximis de rebus a fratre esse celatum: sin autem aliquid impertivit tibi sui consili, lenis a te et facilis existimari debeo qui nihil tecum de his ipsis rebus expostulem. Et si intellegis non me dicto Metelli, ut scribis, sed consilio eius animoque in me inimicissimo esse commotum, cognosce nunc humanitatem meam, si humanitas appellanda est in acerbissima iniuria remissio animi ac dissolutio. Nulla est a me umquam sententia dicta in fratrem tuum: quotienscumque aliquid est actum, sedens iis adsensi qui mihi lenissime sentire visi sunt. Addam illud etiam,

8. *sibi non*] 'that he had already committed himself.' This was perhaps the *dictum* which was supposed to have irritated Cicero, and to which Metellus Celer attributes Cicero's attack on his brother; or possibly it may have been the statement that whoever condemned citizens without giving them a hearing (*indicta causa*) should not get a hearing himself (*dicendi ipsi potestatem fieri non oportere*).

praesenti restiti] 'withstood him to his face.'

tertio quoque verbo] Cp. *vix decimus quisque est qui ipse sese noverit*, Plaut. Pseud. 973; *primo quoque tempore*, Cic. Phil. iii. 39.

vi atque impressione] 'violent brow-beating.'

9. *celatum*] 'kept in the dark.'

remissio animi ac dissolutio] 'culpable weakness and laxity.' Cp. 25, 8, where *dissolutum* is opposed to *asperum*.

sententia] 'vote.'

Addam illud etiam] 'I will add, too, another thing, which, after all that had passed, I could not be expected actively to bring about—yet, for all that, I did not object to it, and even supported it to the best of my power—I mean his being relieved by a decree of the senate from the penalties he had incurred' (viz., suspension from the functions of his office). *Ut sublevaretur* is the *explanatory or definitive subjunctive*, and is used like *sublevatum esse*. See on 12, 47. For *sed etiam* resumptive, see on 6, 1.

quod iam ego curare non debui—sed tamen fieri non moleste tui atque etiam ut ita fieret pro mea parte adiuvi—ut senati consulto meus inimicus, quia tuus frater erat, sublevaretur. 10. Qua re non ego ‘oppugnavi’ fratrem tuum, sed fratri tuo repugnavi, nec in te, ut scribis, ‘animo fui mobili,’ sed ita stabili ut in mea erga te voluntate etiam desertus ab officiis tuis permanerem. Atque hoc ipso tempore tibi paene minitanti nobis per litteras hoc rescribo atque respondeo: ego dolori tuo non solum ignosco, sed summam etiam laudem tribuo: meus enim me sensus quanta vis fraterni sit amoris admonet. A te peto ut tu quoque aequum te iudicem dolori meo praebeas: si acerbe, si crudeliter, si sine causa sum a tuis oppugnatus, ut statuas mihi non modo non cedendum, sed etiam tuo atque exercitus tui auxilio in eius modi causa utendum fuisse. Ego te mihi semper amicum esse volui: me ut tibi amicissimum esse intellegeres laboravi. Maneo in voluntate et quoad voles tu permanebo, citiusque amore tui fratrem tuum odisse desinam quam illius odio quidquam de nostra benevolentia detraham.

The penalties referred to are stated by Suetonius, Jul. 16, *donec ambo* (Caesar and Metellus) *administratione reipublicae decreto patrum submoverentur*. This is what Metellus Celer means by the words *capite et fortunis oppugnatum iri*. The punishment was inflicted by the senate in consequence of the rioting which followed the joint attempt of Metellus Nepos as tribune and Caesar as praetor to give to Pompey the charge of the war against Catiline. Metellus fled to the camp of Pompey, but was afterwards reinstated in his office. He appears to have quite forgiven Cicero, and to have taken an active part in bringing about his restoration from exile; see Sest. 72, 130.

10. *oppugnavi*] cf. 13, 1, ‘assumed the offensive’; *repugnavi*, ‘only acted on the defensive.’

desertus ab] ‘though deprived of all marks of attention from you.’ Cp. *a mente non deserar*, 73, 2. *Ab*, in cases

like the present, means ‘on the score of,’ ‘in regard to,’ as *ab ingenio improbus* Plaut. Truc. 833; *copioso a frumento*, Cic. Att. v. 18, 2 (218); *imparati cum a militibus tum a pecunia*, Att. vii. 15, 3 (311).

sensus] ‘heart.’

ut statuas] ‘I hope you will come to the conclusion not only that I ought not to apologise, but rather that I should be allowed to employ the aid of yourself and your army (that you speak about) in such a cause.’ He covertly rallies Metellus for talking about ‘his army’ in the last. *Non erit mirandum si vos paenitebit* (13, 2) looked like a threat that he would use his army against Cicero and his party. Cicero says jestingly it should rather be employed on his own behalf against the attacks of Metellus Nepos.

quoad voles tu] ‘as long as you will let me.’

detraham] ‘abate aught of.’

15. TO CN. POMPEIUS MAGNUS, IN ASIA (FAM. V. 7).

ROME; ABOUT JUNE; A. U. C. 692; B. C. 62; AET. CIC. 44.

M. Cicero Cn. Pompeio propter Mithridatem victum gratulatur: de rebus suis gestis, quibus coniurationem L. Catilinae oppresserit, sibi Cn. Pompeium non gratulatum esse aegre fert, sperat tamen res gestas suas, si ipse Pompeius in patriam redierit, ab illo agnitionem iri.

M. TULLIUS M. F. CICERO S. D. CN. POMPEIO CN. F. MAGNO IMPERATORI.

1. S. T. E. Q. V. B. E. Ex litteris tuis quas publice misisti cepi una cum omnibus incredibilem voluptatem: tantam enim spem otii ostendisti quantam ego semper omnibus te uno fretus pollicebar. Sed hoc scito, tuos veteres hostis, novos amicos, vehementer litteris his percussos atque ex magna spe deturbatos iacere.

2. Ad me autem litteras quas misisti, quamquam exiguam significationem tuae erga me voluntatis habebant, tamen mihi scito iucundas fuisse: nulla enim re tam laetari soleo quam meorum officiorum conscientia, quibus si quando non mutue respondetur, apud me plus officii residere facillime patior. Illud non dubito quin, si te mea summa erga te studia parum mihi adiunxerint, res publica nos inter nos conciliatura coniuncturaque sit. 3. Ac ne ignores quid ego in tuis litteris desiderarim, scribam aperte, sicut

M. TULLIUS] M. Tullius Cicero, Marci filius, salutem dicit Gnaeo Pompeio, Gnaei filio, Magno, Imperatori.

1. S. T. E. Q. V. B. E.] *Si tu exercitusque valetis, bene est.* This, with other like greetings, we might pronounce to be a formal, stiff manner of address, but that we find that Cicero uses one of these forms in his letters to Terentia; he never employs any such in writing to confidential friends. The form used in some of his letters to Terentia is S. V. B. E. E. V. = *si vales bene est; ego valeo*. It seems then to have been the Roman etiquette to use this deferential form of address towards persons in a very high position, towards strangers, and towards women. See 36, 1, note.

publice] 'officially.'

veteres hostis, novos amicos] He pro-

bably refers to Caesar and the popular party, who seem to have desired to effect a reconciliation with Pompey. Caesar, as praetor, had, at the commencement of this year, proposed to transfer from Catulus to Pompey the dedication of the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus.

deturbatos] 'cast down from their towering hopes.'

2. *afficiorum conscientia*] 'the consciousness of my services to my friends, for which, if in any instance no fair return is made, I am quite content that the balance of services done should be on my side.' *Si quando* shows that the proposition is general.

conciliatura . . . sit] 'bring about and cement a union between us.'

3. *desiderarim*] Cicero had written to Pompey an account of his consulship,

et mea natura et nostra amicitia postulat. Res eas gessi quarum aliquam in tuis litteris et nostrae necessitudinis et rei publicae causa gratulationem expectavi: quam ego abs te praetermissam esse arbitror quod vererere ne cuius animum offenderes. Sed scito ea quae nos pro salute patriae gessimus orbis terrae iudicio ac testimonio comprobari. Quae, cum veneris, tanto consilio tantaque animi magnitudine a me gesta esse cognosces ut tibi multo maiori quam Africanus fuit iam me non multo minorem quam Laelium facile et in re publica et in amicitia adiunctum esse patiare.

16. TO P. SESTIUS, IN MACEDONIA (FAM. V. 6.).

ROME; DECEMBER; A. U. C. 692; B. C. 62; AET. CIC. 44.

Narrat M. Cicero, quam dederit operam ne P. Sestio proquaestori C. Antoni in Macedonia succederetur: adiungit de domo a se empta, de Sesti aedificatione, de C. Antonio a se in senatu defenso.

M. CICERO S. D. P. SESTIO L. F. PROQ.

I. Cum ad me Decius librarius venisset egissetque mecum ut operam darem ne tibi hoc tempore succederetur, quamquam illum hominem frugi et tibi amicum existimabam, tamen, quod memoria tenebam cuius modi ad me litteras antea misisses, non satis credidi hominis prudentis tuam tam valde esse mutatam volun-

and thought that Pompey in his reply had spoken too coldly of his achievements.

cuius animum] See on 1, 5.

Africanus fuit . . . Laelium] Where the second member of a comparison is in meaning unsuited to the grammatical position of the first, a new sentence is sometimes formed with *quam*. But the accusative is also found: cp. Ter. Phorm. 591. Both forms are found in the same sentence here, as is noticed by Roby, § 1269. Cicero's ideal period of the Roman Republic was the epoch of Scipio and Laelius. It has been remarked that he takes chiefly from that period the interlocutors in his philosophical dialogues.

Proq.] Sestius had been quaestor to

Antonius, Cicero's colleague in his consulship, and was now proquaestor to him as proconsul in Macedonia. Cicero defended him on a charge *de vi* in the speech *pro Sest.* in 698 (56). In the time of Sulla there were twenty quaestors and fifteen provinces; but of these twenty quaestors eight were used otherwise (one quaestor Ostiensis, two consular, three Italian, two urban); therefore only twelve were available for the provinces.—Marquardt St. V. i². 528.

1. *librarius*] 'a copyist.' Fam. xvi. 21, 8 (786).

non satis credidi hominis prudentis] The mss have *non satis credidi homini prudenti*; but this could only mean, 'I did not believe Decius, though a sensible fellow'; now this would be a mere re-

tatem. Sed postea quam et Cornelia tua Terentiam convenit et ego cum Q. Cornelio locutus sum, adhibui diligentiam, quotienscumque senatus fuit, ut adessem, plurimumque in eo negoti habui ut Q. Fufium tribunum plebis et ceteros ad quos tu scripseras cogere mihi potius credere quam tuis litteris. Omnino res tota in mensem Ianuarium reiecta erat, sed facile obtinebatur. 2. Ego tua gratulatione commotus, quod ad me pridem scripseras velle te bene evenire, quod de Crasso domum emissem, emi eam ipsam domum HS xxxv aliquanto post tuam gratulationem. Itaque nunc me scito tantum habere aeris alieni ut cupiam coniurare, si quisquam recipiat, sed partim odio inducti me excludunt et aperte vindicem coniurationis oderunt, partim non credunt et a me insidias metuunt nec putant ei nummos deesse posse qui ex obsidione feneratores exemerit. Omnino semissibus magna copia est: ego autem meis

petition, and *prudens* means a man of foresight. Bostius suggested *prudenti* in the sense of *frugi*; but *prudens* means modest. Probably we should read *hominis prudentis*: 'I could not believe that a man of foresight, like you, could have so completely changed your mind'; cf. Hor. Sat. i. 4, 22, *mea . . . scripta . . . timentis*, and especially Cic. Phil. ii. 111, *tuum hominis simplicis pectus vidimus*. A similar construction should perhaps be introduced at 65, 1. The same usage is found in *solius enim meum peccatum corrigi non potest*, Att. xi. 15, 2 (430). Cp. also *two unius studio*, Fam. ii. 6, 5 (177); *nomen meum absentis . . . meas praesentis preces*, Planc. 26. This view requires the transposition of *tuam* from after *voluntatem*. It probably fell out before *tam*, and was afterwards inserted in the wrong place.

Cornelia] Cornelia, wife of P. Sestius: Q. Cornelius was her brother; they were children of C. Cornelius Scipio.

Q. Fufium trib.] This Fufius Calenus was tribune in 693 (61). See 17, 1, whence some have supposed that this letter must be of later date; but it was written at the very end of 692 (62), and Fufius entered on his magistracy on December 10th. He was praetor under Caesar and Bibulus, and was afterwards consul in 707 (47). He was ill-disposed to Cicero all his life.

quam tuis litteris] In his letters, Sestius had expressed a wish that a successor to him in his proquaestorship should be

appointed. He now revokes this wish, and Cicero promises to notify this change of mind to the friends of Sestius, and to countermand the purport of his letters.

obtinebatur] 'is being easily maintained.' So also Att. v. 20, 5 (228), *ipse me Laodiceam recipiebam* = virtually *recepturus sum*.

2. *emissem*] 'oblique enuntiations,' as Kennedy calls them, are made (1), as here, with *quod*; (2) by accus. with *infin.*; (3) by *ut* with the *definitive* (called by Kennedy the *consecutive*) subjunctive.

HS xxxv] i.e. quinquies et triciens = 3,500,000 sesterces = about £30,000. See note on 19, 6.

cupiam coniurare] so as to evade payment. See next note.

vindicem coniurationis] Cicero often speaks of the Catilinarian conspiracy as if its only object was to evade the payment of debts. In De Off. ii. 84 he says, *numquam vehementius actum est, quam me consule, ne solveretur; armis et castris tentata res est*; and in 27, 11, he calls himself *vindicem aeris alieni*, as he here calls himself *vindicem coniurationis*. Of course here *vindex* means 'one who puts down,' while in 27, 11, it means 'one who upholds' (the obligation under which a civilised man is to meet his liabilities). In 30, 6, he says that the publicans declared that they owed to him the preservation of their fortunes. So here he says he 'rescued the creditors from a blockade.'

Omnino] 'In fact, there is plenty of

rebus gestis hoc sum adsecutus ut bonum nomen existimer.
 3. Domum tuam atque aedificationem omnem perspexi et vehementer probavi. Antonium, etsi eius in me officia omnes desiderant, tamen in senatu gravissime ac diligentissime defendi senatumque vehementer oratione mea atque auctoritate commovi. Tu ad me velim litteras crebrius mittas.

money to be had at six per cent. ; and I, by my consular exploits, have gained one good thing—I am looked on as a good security.' Cicero was in such favour with the money-lenders, whose interests he had saved, that everyone was ready to lend him money. Six per cent. seems a low rate of interest. We find, however, that money was sometimes even cheaper in Rome: see Att. iv. 15, 7 (143), where we are told that money could be got for four per cent., until the extravagant bribery of the candidates doubled the rate of interest. For *bonum nomen* cf. Hor.

Ep. ii. 1, 105, *cautos nominibus rectis expendere nummos*, and Att. v. 21, 12 (250). O. E. Schmidt adds *non* before *magna*.

3. *Antonium*] This must have been some minor charge. He afterwards explains why he must decline to defend Antonius on the motion that he should be superseded for extortion, at the same time seeking to leave Antonius under the impression that he possibly might undertake his defence. See Epp. 17, 18.

officia . . . desiderant] 'notice his want of attention.'

L.H.

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