LATIN SERIES · VOLUME 61

Letters to His Friends

Cicero

Epistulae ad Familiares

Letters to His Friends

Part Two: Books VI–X

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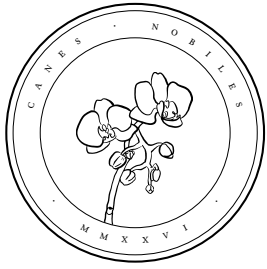
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

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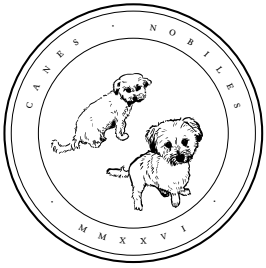

Volume 61 of the Canes Nobiles Latin interlinear texts

The Latin text follows Louis Claude Purser's text, Oxford, 1901

Set from the Perseus Digital Library's canonical Latin corpus, with corrections

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

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BOOK VI

VI.1 · TO TORQUATUS IN ATHENS

Everyone repents of his own lot, but for a good man Rome is now the most wretched place, since the eyes increase grief. Torquatus' family is no worse for his absence, and he should neither demand a special fortune nor refuse the common one. The man who has treated him more harshly than his rank deserved has shown great signs of softening; from the one side's victory he faces no danger beyond the common ruin, and the other side he never feared. They followed duty, not reward; with nothing to answer for but guilt, they should bear the rest calmly. Cicero, once rebuked for despair, now urges courage, and Servius Sulpicius is there to console him.

M. Cicero s. d. A. Torquato.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Aulus Torquatus

Etsi ea perturbatio est omnium rerum, ut suae 1

Although such the-confusion is of-all things that of-his-own

quemque fortunae maxime paeniteat nemoque sit quin

each fortune most repents and-no-one is but-that

ubivis quam ibi, ubi sit, esse malit, tamen mihi dubium

anywhere than there where he-is to-be would-prefer still to-me doubtful

non est quin hoc tempore bono viro Romae esse

not it-is that at-this time for-a-good man at-Rome to-be

miserrimum sit. Nam, etsi, quocumque in loco quisque

most-wretched is For although whatever in place each

est, idem est ei sensus et eadem acerbitas ex interitu

is the-same is to-him feeling and the-same bitterness from the-ruin

rerum et publicarum et suarum, tamen oculi augent

of-affairs both public and his-own still the-eyes increase

dolorem, qui ea, quae ceteri audiunt, intueri cogunt

grief which those-things which others hear to-look-at compel

nec avertere a miseriis cogitationem sinunt. Qua re,
nor to-turn-away from miseries thought allow By-which thing
etsi multarum rerum desiderio te angi necesse est,
although for-many things by-longing you to-be-tormented necessary it-is
tamen illo dolore, quo maxime te confici audio,
still from-that grief by-which most you to-be-worn-down I-hear
quod Romae non sis, animum tuum libera. Etsi enim
because at-Rome not you-are mind your free Although for
cum magna molestia tuos tuaque desideras, tamen
with great vexation your-people and-your-things you-miss still
illa quidem, quae requiris, suum statum tenent nec melius,
those indeed which you-miss their state hold nor better
si tu adesses, tenerent nec sunt ullo in proprio periculo;
if you were-present would-they-hold nor are-they any in particular danger
nec debes tu, cum de tuis cogitas, aut praecipuam
nor ought you when about yours you-think either special
aliquam fortunam postulare aut communem recusare.
some fortune to-demand or the-common to-refuse

2 De te autem ipso, Torquate, est tuum sic agitare
About you however yourself Torquatus it-is yours so to-turn-over
animo, ut non adhibeas in consilium cogitationum tuarum
in-mind that not you-call-in into counsel of-thoughts your
desperationem aut timorem. Nec enim is, qui in te
despair or fear Neither for he who toward you
adhuc iniustior quam tua dignitas postulabat fuit, non
so-far more-unjust than your dignity demanded was not
magna signa dedit animi erga te mitigati, nec tamen is
great signs has-given of-mind toward you softened nor still he
ipse, a quo salus petitur, habet explicatam aut exploratam
himself from whom safety is-sought has unfolded or ascertained
rationem salutis suae; cumque omnium bellorum exitus
the-reckoning of-safety his and-since of-all wars the-outcomes

incerti sint, ab altera victoria tibi periculum nullum esse
uncertain are from the-one victory for-you danger none to-be
perspicio, quod quidem seiunctum sit ab omnium interitu,
I-perceive which indeed separate be from of-all ruin
ab altera te ipsum numquam timuisse certo scio.
from the-other you yourself never to-have-feared certainly I-know
Reliquum est ut te id ipsum, quod ego quasi consolationis 3
Remaining it-is that you that very which I as-it-were of-consolation
loco pono, maxime excruciet, commune periculum rei
in-place set most tortures the-common danger of-the-thing
publicae. Cuius tanti mali, quamvis docti viri multa
public Of-which so-great evil although learned men many-things
dicant, tamen vereor ne consolatio nulla possit vera
say still I-fear lest consolation none can true
reperiri praeter illam, quae tanta est, quantum in cuiusque
to-be-found except that which so-great is as-much-as in each-one's
animo roboris est atque nervorum. Si enim bene sentire
mind of-strength there-is and of-sinews If for well to-feel
recteque facere satis est ad bene beateque vivendum, vereor
and-rightly to-act enough is for well and-happily living I-fear
ne eum, qui se optimorum consiliorum conscientia
lest him who himself of-best counsels by-the-consciousness
sustentare possit, miserum esse nefas sit dicere. Nec enim
to-sustain can wretched to-be wrong it-be to-say Nor for
nos arbitror victoriae praemiis ductos patriam olim et
us I-think of-victory by-the-rewards led the-fatherland once and
liberos et fortunas reliquisse; sed quoddam nobis officium
children and fortunes to-have-left but a-certain to-ourselves duty
iustum et pium et debitum rei p. nostraeque
just and dutiful and owed to-the-thing public and-to-our

dignitati videbamur sequi nec, cum id faciebamus, tam
dignity seemed to-follow nor when that we-did so
eramus amentes, ut explorata nobis esset victoria.
were-we mad that ascertained to-us was victory
4 Qua re, si id evenit, quod ingredientibus nobis in
By-which thing if that has-happened which to-entering us into
causam propositum fuit accidere posse, non debemus ita
the-cause set-before-us was to-happen to-be-able not we-ought so
cadere animis, quasi aliquid evenerit, quod fieri posse
to-fall in-spirits as-if something had-happened which to-be-done to-be-able
numquam putarimus. Simus igitur ea mente, quam ratio
never we-had-thought Let-us-be then of-that mind which reason
et veritas praescribit, ut nihil in vita nobis praestandum
and truth prescribes that nothing in life by-us to-be-answered-for
praeter culpam putemus, eaque cum careamus, omnia humana
except guilt we-think and-that since we-are-free-of all-things human
placate et moderate feramus. Atque haec eo pertinet oratio,
calmly and moderately let-us-bear And this to-that tends speech
ut perditis rebus omnibus tamen ipsa virtus se sustentare
that with-ruined affairs all still itself virtue itself to-sustain
posse videatur. Sed, si est spes aliqua rebus communibus,
to-be-able seems But if there-is hope some for-affairs common
ea tu, quicumque status est futurus, carere non debes.
it you whatever state is going-to-be to-be-without not ought
5 Atque haec mihi scribenti veniebat in mentem me
And these-things to-me writing it-came into mind me
esse eum, cuius tu desperationem accusare solitus esses
to-be him whose you despair to-accuse wont you-were
quemque auctoritate tua cunctantem et diffidentem excitare.
and-whom by-authority your hesitating and distrustful to-rouse
Quo quidem tempore non ego causam nostram, sed
At-which indeed time not I cause our but

consilium improbabam. Sero enim nos iis armis adversari
counsel disapproved Late for us those arms to-oppose
videbam, quae multo ante confirmata per nosmet ipsos
I-saw which much before strengthened by ourselves selves
erant, dolebamque pilis et gladiis, non consiliis neque
had-been and-I-grieved with-javelins and swords not by-counsels nor
auctoritatibus nostris de iure publico disceptari. Neque ego,
authorities our about right public to-be-disputed Nor I
ea, quae facta sunt, fore cum dicebam, divinabam
those-things which done have-been going-to-be when I-said did-I-divine
futura, sed, quod et fieri posse et exitiosum fore,
going-to-happen but what both to-happen to-be-able and ruinous going-to-be
si evenisset, videbam, id ne accideret timebam, praesertim
if it-should-happen I-saw that lest it-happen I-feared especially
cum, si mihi alterum utrum de eventu atque exitu rerum
since if to-me the-one or-the-other about the-event and outcome of-affairs
promittendum esset, id futurum, quod evenit, exploratius
to-be-promised were that going-to-be which happened more-assuredly
possem promittere. Iis enim rebus praestabamus, quae
I-could to-promise In-those for things we-excelled which
non prodeunt in aciem, usu autem armorum et militum
not go-forth into battle-line in-the-use however of-arms and of-soldiers
robore inferiores eramus. Sed tu illum animum nunc
in-strength inferior we-were But you that spirit now
adhibe, quaeso, quo me tum esse oportere censebas.
apply I-ask with-which me then to-be ought you-thought
Haec eo scripsi, quod mihi Philargyrus tuus 6
These-things for-this-reason I-wrote because to-me Philargyrus your
omnia de te requirenti fidelissimo animo, ut mihi quidem
all-things about you asking with-most-faithful mind as to-me indeed
visus est, narravit te interdum sollicitum solere esse
seemed he-has told you sometimes anxious to-be-wont to-be

vehementius. Quod facere non debes nec dubitare quin
too-vehemently Which to-do not you-ought nor to-doubt but-that
aut aliqua re p. sis is futurus, qui esse debes, aut
either with-some thing public you-be he going-to-be who to-be you-ought or
perdita non adflictiore condicione quam ceteri. Hoc vero
with-it-ruined not in-more-afflicted condition than the-others This indeed
tempus, quo exanimati omnes et suspensi sumus, hoc
time in-which breathless all and in-suspense we-are with-this
moderatiore animo ferre debes, quod et in urbe ea es,
more-moderate mind to-bear you-ought because both in a-city that you-are
ubi nata et alta est ratio ac moderatio vitae, et
where born and nurtured is the-reasoning and moderation of-life and
habes Ser. Sulpicium, quem semper unice dilexisti; qui
you-have Servius Sulpicius whom always singularly you-have-loved who
te profecto et benevolentia et sapientia consolatur. Cuius
you surely both with-goodwill and with-wisdom consoles Whose
si essemus et auctoritatem et consilium secuti, togati
if we-had both the-authority and counsel followed in-the-toga
potius potentiam quam armati victoriam subissemus.
rather power than in-arms victory we-would-have-undergone
7 Sed haec longiora fortasse fuerunt quam necesse fuit;
But these-things longer perhaps were than necessary was
illa, quae maiora sunt, brevius exponam. Ego habeo,
those-things which greater are more-briefly I-will-set-out I have
cui plus quam tibi debeam, neminem; quibus tantum
to-whom more than to-you I-should-owe no-one to-whom so-much
debebam, quantum tu intellegis, eos huius mihi belli
I-owed as-much-as you understand them of-this to-me war
casus eripuit; qui sim autem hoc tempore intellego;
the-chance snatched-away who I-am however at-this time I-understand
sed, quia nemo est tam adflictus quin, si nihil aliud
but because no-one is so stricken but-that if nothing else

studeat nisi id, quod agit, possit navare aliquid et
he-be-eager-for except that which he-does he-can to-render something and
efficere, omne meum consilium, operam, studium certe
to-accomplish all my counsel effort zeal certainly
velim existimes tibi tuisque liberis esse debitum.
I-would-wish you-think to-you and-to-your children to-be owed

VI.2 · THREE OUTCOMES

Cicero writes less often from ill health and absence from Rome, not forgetfulness. That Torquatus' case has passed through more changes than men wished or expected is, in such times, no cause for vexation. Either arms will prevail, and he need fear neither side; or the state will breathe again by terms, weariness, or victory, and he will enjoy his dignity and fortunes; or all will perish, as Antonius once feared, and then no one should grieve specially at what falls on all. He asks what Torquatus is doing and where he will be.

M. Cicero s. d. A. Torquato.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Aulus Torquatus
Peto a te ne me putes oblivione tui rarius ad te 1
I-ask of you not me you-think from-forgetfulness of-you more-rarely to you
scribere, quam solebam, sed aut gravitate valetudinis,
to-write than I-was-wont but either from-the-severity of-health
qua tamen iam paulum videor levari, aut quod
by-which still now a-little I-seem to-be-relieved or because
absim ab urbe, ut, qui ad te proficiscantur, scire non
I-am-away from the-city so-that who to you set-out to-know not
possim. Qua re velim ita statutum habeas, me tui
I-can By-which thing I-would-wish so determined you-hold me of-you

memoriam cum summa benevolentia tenere tuasque omnis
memory with highest goodwill to-hold and-your all
res non minori mihi curae quam meas esse.
affairs not of-less to-me care than mine to-be

2 Quod maiore in varietate versata est adhuc tua causa quam
That greater in variety turned has so-far your case than
homines aut volebant aut opinabantur, mihi crede, non
men either wished or supposed to-me believe not
est pro malis temporum quod moleste feras; necesse
is for the-evils of-the-times what with-vexation you-should-bear necessary
est enim aut armis urgeri rem p. sempiternis aut
it-is for either by-arms to-be-pressed the-thing public everlasting or
iis positis recreari aliquando aut funditus interire. Si
with-these laid-down to-be-restored sometime or utterly to-perish If
arma valebunt, nec eos, a quibus reciperis, vereri debes
arms will-prevail neither those by whom you-are-received to-fear ought-you
nec eos, quos adiuvisti; si armis aut condicione positis
nor those whom you-helped if with-arms either by-terms laid-down
aut defetigatione abiectis aut victoria detractis civitas
or by-weariness thrown-down or by-victory taken-away the-state
respiraverit, et dignitate tua frui tibi et fortunis
will-have-breathed-again and dignity your to-enjoy for-you and fortunes
licebit; sin omnino interierint omnia fueritque is
it-will-be-allowed but-if altogether will-have-perished all-things and-will-have-been that
exitus, quem vir prudentissimus, M. Antonius, iam
the-outcome which a-man most-prudent Marcus Antonius already
tum timebat, cum tantum instare malorum suspicabatur,
then feared when so-much to-impend of-evils he-suspected
misera est illa quidem consolatio, tali praesertim civi
wretched is that indeed consolation for-such especially a-citizen

et viro, sed tamen necessaria, nihil esse praecipue cuiquam
and man but still necessary nothing to-be specially for-anyone
dolendum in eo quod accidat universis.
to-be-grieved in that which happens to-all
Quae vis insit in his paucis verbis (plura enim committenda 3
What force be-in in these few words more for to-be-entrusted
epistulae non erant), si attendes, quod facis, profecto
to-a-letter not were if you-will-attend which you-do surely
etiam sine meis litteris intelleges te aliquid habere,
even without my letter you-will-understand you something to-have
quod speres, nihil, quod aut hoc aut aliquo rei
which you-may-hope nothing which either in-this or in-some of-the-thing
p. statu timeas; omnia si interierint, cum superstitem
public state you-may-fear all-things if have-perished since surviving
te esse rei publicae ne si liceat quidem velis,
you to-be the-thing public not if it-be-allowed even you-would-wish
ferendam esse fortunam, praesertim quae absit a culpa.
to-be-borne to-be fortune especially which be-far from guilt
Sed haec hactenus. Tu velim scribas ad me quid
But these-things so-far You I-would-wish write to me what
agas et ubi futurus sis, ut aut quo scribam
you-are-doing and where going-to-be you-are so-that either whither I-may-write
aut quo veniam scire possim.
or whither I-may-come to-know I-can

Cicero was too long before and will be shorter now, since nothing is new. He cannot divine the battle, but he sees what either victory will be, and nothing worse to fear: to live as one will have to live is most wretched, but no wise man thought death wretched. Torquatus is in no greater danger than those who fight or fear the victor; the weightier consolation is freedom from guilt. But this is owls to Athens.

M. Cicero s. d. A. Torquato.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Aulus Torquatus

1 Superioribus litteris benevolentia magis adductus, quam
In-the-earlier letter by-goodwill more led than
quo res ita postularet, fui longior. Neque enim
because the-matter so demanded I-was longer Nor for
confirmatione nostra egebat virtus tua neque erat ea mea
strengthening our needed virtue your nor was that my
causa atque fortuna, ut, cui ipsi omnia deessent, alterum
cause and fortune that to-whom myself all-things were-lacking another
confirmarem. Hoc item tempore brevior esse debeo.
should-strengthen At-this likewise time shorter to-be I-ought

2 Sive enim nihil tum opus fuit tam multis verbis, nihilo
Whether for nothing then need was of-so many words nothing
magis nunc opus est, sive tum opus fuit, illud satis
more now need is or-whether then need was that enough
est, praesertim cum accesserit nihil novi. Nam, etsi
is especially since has-been-added nothing new For although
cotidie aliquid audimus earum rerum, quas ad te perferri
daily something we-hear of-those things which to you to-be-reported
existimo, summa tamen eadem est et idem exitus; quem
I-think the-sum still the-same is and the-same outcome which
ego tam video animo quam ea, quae oculis cernimus,
I as I-see in-mind as those-things which with-eyes we-discern

nec vero quicquam video, quod non idem te videre certo
nor indeed anything do-I-see which not the-same you to-see certainly
sciam. Nam, etsi quem exitum acies habitura sit divinare
I-know For although what outcome the-battle going-to-have be to-divine
nemo potest, tamen et belli exitum video et, si id
no-one can still both of-the-war the-outcome I-see and if that
minus, hoc quidem certe, cum sit necesse alterum utrum
less this indeed certainly since it-be necessary the-one or-the-other
vincere, qualis futura sit vel haec vel illa victoria.
to-conquer of-what-kind going-to-be be either this or that victory
Idque cum optime perspexi, tum tale video, nihil ut 3
And-that both best I-have-perceived and such I-see nothing that
mali videatur futurum, si id vel ante acciderit, quod
of-evil seems going-to-be if that even before has-happened which
vel maximum ad timorem proponitur. Ita enim vivere, ut
even most for fear is-set-forth So for to-live as
tum sit vivendum, miserrimum est; mori autem nemo
then it-will-be to-be-lived most-wretched is to-die however no
sapiens miserum duxit ne beato quidem. Sed in ea
wise-man wretched has-thought not for-the-happy even But in that
es urbe, in qua haec vel plura et ornatiora parietes
you-are city in which these-things or more and more-ornate the-walls
ipsi loqui posse videantur.
themselves to-speak to-be-able seem
Ego tibi hoc confirmo, etsi levis est consolatio ex 4
I to-you this affirm although light is the-consolation from
miseriis aliorum, nihilo te nunc maiore in discrimine esse
the-miseries of-others by-nothing you now greater in danger to-be
quam quemvis aut eorum, qui discesserint; alteri dimicant,
than anyone or of-those who have-departed the-ones fight
alteri victorem timent. Sed haec consolatio levis est; illa
the-others the-victor fear But this consolation light is that

gravior, qua te uti spero, ego certe utor; nec enim, dum
weightier which you to-use I-hope I certainly use nor for while
ero, angar ulla re, cum omni vacem culpa, et,
I-shall-be will-I-be-tormented by-any thing since from-all I-am-free guilt and
si non ero, sensu omnino carebo. Sed rursus γλαῦκ'
if not I-shall-be feeling altogether I-shall-lack But again owls
εἰς Ἀθήνας, qui ad te haec. Mihi tu, tui, tua omnia
to Athens who to you these-things To-me you yours your all-things
maximae curae sunt et, dum vivam, erunt. Vale.
of-greatest care are and while I-live will-be Farewell

VI.4 · NO EVIL BUT GUILT

Nothing is new. The war seems unlikely to be long; the forces are so matched that either side may win, and whichever wins, the victories will differ little, since an angry armed victor is to be feared. Cicero's one consolation is a conscience of right will: there is no evil but guilt. Torquatus' safety is not in doubt with Caesar. Rome is the most wretched place, and time has soothed Cicero more than letters; he wanted peace, his life is spent, and death will end grief. He is sorry Servius has left Athens.

M. Cicero s. d. A. Torquato.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Aulus Torquatus
1 Novi quod ad te scriberem nihil erat, et tamen, si quid
New what to you I-might-write nothing there-was and still if anything
esset, sciebam te a tuis certiorem fieri solere; de
there-were I-knew you by your-people informed to-be-made to-be-wont about
futuris autem rebus etsi semper difficile est dicere, tamen
future however things although always difficult it-is to-speak still
interdum coniectura possis propius accedere, cum est res
sometimes by-conjecture you-can nearer approach when is the-matter

eius modi cuius exitus provideri possit. Nunc tantum
of-that kind of-which the-outcome to-be-foreseen can Now only
videmur intellegere, non diuturnum bellum; etsi id ipsum
we-seem to-understand not long the-war although that itself
non nullis videmur secus. Equidem, cum haec scribebam,
not to-none we-seem otherwise For-my-part when these-things I-was-writing
aliquid iam actum putabam, non quo, sed quod difficilis erat
something already done thought not that but because difficult was
coniectura. Nam cum omnis belli Mars communis et cum
the-conjecture For while all of-war Mars common and while
semper incerti exitus proeliorum sunt, tum hoc tempore
always uncertain the-outcomes of-battles are so at-this time
ita magnae utrimque copiae, ita paratae ad depugnandum esse
so great on-both-sides forces so prepared for fighting-it-out to-be
dicuntur, ut, utercumque vicerit, non sit mirum futurum.
are-said that whichever conquers not it-be strange going-to-be
Illa in dies singulos magis magisque opinio hominum
That into days single more and-more the-opinion of-men
confirmatur, etiam si inter causas armorum aliquantum
is-confirmed even if between the-causes of-arms somewhat
intersit, tamen inter victorias non multum interfuturum.
it-differs still between the-victories not much going-to-differ
Alteros prope modum iam sumus experti, de altero nemo
The-ones nearly in-measure already we-have experienced about the-other no-one
est quin cogitet quam sit metuendus iratus victor armatus.
is but-that considers how be to-be-feared an-angry victor armed
Hoc loco si videor augere dolorem tuum, quem 2
In-this place if I-seem to-increase grief your which
consolando levare debeam, fateor me communium malorum
by-consoling to-relieve I-ought I-confess me of-common evils
consolationem nullam invenire praeter illam, quae tamen, si
consolation none to-find except that which still if

possis eam suscipere, maxima est, quaque ego cotidie magis
you-can it to-take-up greatest is and-which I daily more
utor, conscientiam rectae voluntatis maximam consolationem
use consciousness of-right will greatest consolation
esse rerum incommodarum nec esse ullum magnum malum
to-be of-things adverse nor to-be any great evil
praeter culpam. A qua quoniam tantum absumus, ut
except guilt From which since so-far we-are-away that
etiam optime senserimus eventusque magis nostri consili
even best we-felt and-the-outcome more of-our counsel
quam consilium reprehendatur, et quoniam praestitimus
than the-counsel is-blamed and since we-have-performed
quod debuimus, moderate quod evenit feramus. Sed hoc
what we-ought moderately what has-happened let-us-bear But this
mihi tamen non sumo, ut te consoler de communibus
to-me still not I-take that you I-console about common
miseriis, quae ad consolandum maioris ingeni et ad
miseries which for consoling of-greater talent and for
ferendum singularis virtutis indigent; illud cuivis facile est
bearing of-singular virtue have-need that to-anyone easy is
docere cur praecipue tu dolere nihil debeas. Eius enim,
to-show why specially you to-grieve nothing ought For of-him
qui tardior in te levando fuit quam fore putaremus,
who slower in you relieving was than going-to-be we-thought
non est mihi dubia de tua salute sententia, de illis
not is to-me doubtful about your safety the-opinion about those
autem non arbitror te exspectare quid sentiam.
however not I-think you to-await what I-feel

3 Reliquum est ut te angat, quod absis a tuis tam
Remaining it-is that you it-torments that you-are-away from yours so
diu. Res molesta, praesertim ab iis pueris, quibus nihil
long A-thing vexatious especially from those boys than-whom nothing

potest esse festivius; sed, ut ad te scripsi antea, tempus
can to-be more-delightful but as to you I-wrote before the-time
est huius modi ut suam quisque condicionem miserrimam
is of-this kind that his-own each condition most-wretched
putet et, ubi quisque sit, ibi esse minime velit. Equidem
thinks and where each is there to-be least wishes For-my-part
nos, qui Romae sumus, miserrimos esse duco, non solum
we who at-Rome are most-wretched to-be consider not only
quod in malis omnibus acerbius est videre quam audire,
because in evils all more-bitter it-is to-see than to-hear
sed etiam quod ad omnis casus subitorum periculorum
but also because to all chances of-sudden dangers
magis obiecti sumus quam si abessemus. Etsi me ipsum
more exposed we-are than if we-were-away Although me myself
consolatorem tuum non tantum litterae, quibus semper
consoler your not so-much letters to-which always
studui, quantum longinquitas temporis mitigavit.
I-have-devoted-myself as-much-as the-length of-time has-soothed
Quanto fuerim dolore meministi. In quo prima illa 4
With-how-great I-was grief you-remember In which first that
consolatio est, vidisse me plus quam ceteros, cum
consolation is to-have-seen me more than the-others when
cupiebam quamvis iniqua condicione pacem; quod etsi
I-desired however unfair on-condition peace which although
casu, non divinatione mea factum est, tamen in hac
by-chance not by-divination my done has-been still in this
inani prudentiae laude delector. Deinde, quod mihi ad
empty of-prudence praise I-delight Then what to-me for
consolationem commune tecum est, si iam vocer ad exitum
consolation common with-you is if now I-be-called to the-end
vitae, non ab ea re p. avellar, qua carendum esse
of-life not from that thing public will-I-be-torn which to-be-without to-be

doleam, praesertim cum id sine ullo sensu futurum sit.
I-should-grieve especially since that without any feeling going-to-be be
Adiuvat etiam aetas et acta iam vita, quae cum cursu
Helps also age and spent already life which while with-course
suo bene confecto delectat tum vetat in eo vim timere,
its well completed delights so forbids in that violence to-fear
quo nos iam natura ipsa paene perduxerit. Postremo is
to-which us already nature itself almost has-brought Finally such
vir vel etiam ii viri hoc bello occiderunt, ut impudentia
a-man or even such men in-this war have-fallen that impudence
videatur eandem fortunam, si res cogat, recusare.
it-seems the-same fortune if the-situation compel to-refuse
Equidem mihi omnia propono, nec ullum est tantum
For-my-part to-myself all-things I-set-before nor any is so-great
malum quod non putem impendere. Sed, cum plus in
an-evil which not I-think to-impend But since more in
metuendo mali sit quam in ipso illo, quod timetur, desino,
fearing of-evil is than in itself that which is-feared I-cease
praesertim cum id impendeat, in quo non modo dolor
especially since that impends in which not only grief
nullus, verum finis etiam doloris futurus sit. Sed haec
none but the-end even of-grief going-to-be is But these-things
satis multa, vel plura potius quam necesse fuit; facit autem
enough many or more rather than necessary was makes however
non loquacitas mea, sed benevolentia longiores epistulas.
not talkativeness my but goodwill longer the-letters
5 Servium discessisse Athenis moleste tuli; non enim dubito
Servius to-have-left Athens with-vexation I-bore not for I-doubt
quin magnae tibi levationi solitus sit esse cotidianus
but-that great to-you relief wont was to-be daily
congressus et sermo cum familiarissimi hominis tum optimi
meeting and talk both of-a-most-intimate man and of-a-best

et prudentissimi viri. Tu velim te, ut debes et
and most-prudent man You I-would-wish yourself as you-ought and
soles, tua virtute sustentes. Ego, quae te velle quaeque
are-wont by-your virtue you-sustain I what you to-wish and-what
ad te et ad tuos pertinere arbitrabor, omnia studiose
to you and to yours to-pertain I-think all zealously
diligenterque curabo. Quae cum faciam, benevolentiam
and-diligently will-attend-to Which when I-do goodwill
tuam erga me imitabor, merita non adsequar. Vale.
your toward me I-will-imitate services not I-will-attain Farewell

VI.5 · TO CAECINA, IN EXILE

Cicero sees Caecina's son almost daily and promises him all his effort, with what influence he has. He is reading Caecina's book and guarding it carefully. Fortune cannot be lasting against so good a cause and such good citizens; Caecina's talent and virtue, which Caesar values, give special hope, and Caesar's resentment at the very talent that wounded him softens daily. He should be brave and great of spirit, and count on Cicero for himself and his children.

M. Cicero s. d. A. Caecinae.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Aulus Caecina
Quotienscumque filium tuum video (video autem fere 1
As-often-as son your I-see I-see however almost
cotidie), polliceor ei studium quidem meum et operam
daily I-promise him zeal indeed my and effort
sine ulla exceptione aut laboris aut occupationis aut
without any exception either of-labor or of-occupation or
temporis, gratiam autem atque auctoritatem cum hac
of-time influence however and authority with this
exceptione, quantum valeam quantumque possim. Liber tuus
exception as-much-as I-avail and-as-much-as I-can Book your

et lectus est et legitur a me diligenter et custoditur
both read has-been and is-read by me diligently and is-guarded
diligentissime. Res et fortunae tuae mihi maximae
most-diligently The-affairs and fortunes your to-me of-greatest
curae sunt; quae quidem cotidie faciliores mihi et meliores
care are which indeed daily easier to-me and better
videntur multisque video magnae esse curae; quorum de
seem and-to-many I-see of-great to-be care of-whom about
studio et de sua spe filium ad te perscripsisse certo scio.
zeal and about their hope your-son to you to-have-written-fully certainly I-know
2 Iis autem de rebus, quas coniectura consequi possumus,
Those however about things which by-conjecture to-attain we-can
non mihi sumo ut plus ipse prospiciam quam te
not for-myself do-I-take that more myself I-foresee than you
videre atque intellegere mihi persuaserim; sed tamen, quia
to-see and to-understand to-myself I-have-persuaded but still because
fieri potest ut tu ea perturbatiore animo cogites, puto
to-be-done it-can that you them with-more-disturbed mind think I-think
esse meum, quid sentiam, exponere. Ea natura rerum
it-to-be my-part what I-feel to-set-out That the-nature of-things
est et is temporum cursus, ut non possit ista aut tibi
is and that of-times the-course that not can that either for-you
aut ceteris fortuna esse diuturna neque haerere in tam
or for-the-others fortune to-be lasting nor to-cling in so
bona causa et in tam bonis civibus tam acerba iniuria.
good a-cause and in so good citizens so bitter injustice
3 Qua re ad eam spem, quam extra ordinem de te
By-which thing to that hope which out-of order about you
ipso habemus non solum propter dignitatem et virtutem
yourself we-have not only on-account-of dignity and virtue
tuam (haec enim ornamenta sunt tibi etiam cum aliis
your these for honors are to-you even with others

communia), accedunt tua praecipua propter eximium
common are-added your special-ones on-account-of exceptional
ingenium summamque virtutem, cui mehercules hic,
talent and-highest virtue to-which by-Hercules this-man
cuius in potestate sumus, multum tribuit. Itaque ne
whose in power we-are much attributes And-so not
punctum quidem temporis in ista fortuna fuisses,
a-point even of-time in that fortune would-you-have-been
nisi eo ipso bono tuo, quo delectatur, se violatum
unless by-that very good your by-which he-is-delighted himself violated
putasset; quod ipsum lenitur cotidie significaturque nobis
he-had-thought which itself is-softened daily and-is-indicated to-us
ab iis, qui simul cum eo vivunt, tibi hanc ipsam
by those who together with him live to-you this very
opinionem ingeni apud illum plurimum profuturam.
reputation of-talent with him very-much going-to-be-of-use
Quapropter primum fac animo forti atque magno sis (ita 4
Wherefore first see-to-it of-spirit brave and great you-be so
enim natus, ita educatus, ita doctus es, ita etiam cognitus,
for born so brought-up so taught you-are so also known
ut tibi id faciendum sit), deinde spem quoque habeas
that by-you that to-be-done is then hope also you-have
firmissimam propter eas causas, quas scripsi. A me vero
most-firm on-account-of those reasons which I-wrote From me indeed
tibi omnia liberisque tuis paratissima esse confidas velim;
for-you all-things and-for-children your most-ready to-be trust I-would-wish
id enim et vetustas nostri amoris et mea consuetudo
that for both the-age of-our love and my custom
in meos et tua multa erga me officia postulant.
toward my-own and your many toward me services demand

Cicero would rather congratulate Caecina than strengthen him, and hopes to do so soon. As Caecina's Etruscan discipline foretold Cicero's return, so Cicero's own divination has never failed: he warned Pompey not to join with Caesar and then not to break with him, and preferred an unjust peace to a just war, but shame drew him to Pompey's side, as Amphiaraus went to ruin with open eyes. He now foretells Caecina's return from two signs: Caesar's mild and merciful nature, his delight in talent, and his pardon of Cassius, Brutus, Sulpicius, and Marcellus; and the times, which will not let good men stay branded where the guilty have come home. Cicero has Caesar's friends and will use them for him.

M. Cicero s. d. A. Caecinae.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Aulus Caecina

1 Vereor ne desideres officium meum, quod tibi pro nostra
I-fear lest you-miss duty my which to-you for our
et meritorum multorum et studiorum parium coniunctione
both of-services many and of-studies equal union
deesse non debet; sed tamen vereor ne litterarum a
to-be-lacking not ought but still I-fear lest of-letters from
me officium requiras. Quas tibi et iam pridem et saepe
me the-duty you-seek Which to-you both already long-ago and often
misissem, nisi cotidie melius exspectans gratulationem
I-would-have-sent unless daily better awaiting congratulation
quam confirmationem animi tui complecti litteris maluissem.
than strengthening of-mind your to-embrace in-letter I-had-preferred
Nunc, ut spero, brevi gratulabimur; itaque in aliud tempus
Now as I-hope shortly we-shall-congratulate and-so to another time
id argumentum epistulae differo.
that subject of-letter I-defer

His autem litteris animum tuum, quem minime imbecillum 2
By-this however letter mind your which least weak
esse et audio et spero, etsi non sapientissimi, at
to-be both I-hear and hope although not of-a-most-wise yet
amicissimi hominis auctoritate confirmandum etiam atque
of-a-most-friendly man by-the-authority to-be-strengthened again and
etiam puto, nec iis quidem verbis, quibus te consoler
again I-think nor with-those indeed words with-which you I-might-console
ut adflictum et iam omni spe salutis orbatum, sed ut
as stricken and already of-all hope of-safety bereft but as
eum, de cuius incolumitate non plus dubitem quam te
him about whose preservation not more I-doubt than you
memini dubitare de mea. Nam, cum me ex re
I-remember to-have-doubted about mine For when me from the-thing
p. expulissent ii, qui illam cadere posse stante me
public had-driven those who it to-fall to-be-able with-standing me
non putarunt, memini me ex multis hospitibus, qui ad
not thought I-remember me from many guests who to
me ex Asia, in qua tu eras, venerant, audire te de
me from Asia in which you were had-come to-hear you about
glorioso et celeri reditu meo confirmare.
the-glorious and swift return my to-affirm
Si te ratio quaedam mira Tuscae disciplinae, quam 3
If you the-reasoning a-certain wonderful of-the-Tuscan discipline which
a patre, nobilissimo atque optimo viro, acceperas, non
from your-father a-most-noble and best man you-had-received not
fefellit, ne nos quidem nostra divinatio fallet, quam cum
deceived not us even our divination will-deceive which both
sapientissimorum virorum monumentis atque praeceptis
of-most-wise men from-the-monuments and precepts
plurimoque, ut tu scis, doctrinae studio tum magno
and-from-very-much as you know of-learning study and from-great

etiam usu tractandae rei p. magnaque nostrorum
also experience of-administering the-thing public and-from-great of-our
temporum varietate consecuti sumus;
times variety attained we-have
4 cui quidem divinationi hoc plus confidimus, quod ea
in-which indeed divination by-this more we-trust that it
nos nihil in his tam obscuris rebus tamque perturbatis
us nothing in these so obscure matters and-so confused
umquam omnino fefellit. Dicerem, quae ante futura
ever at-all has-deceived I-would-say what before going-to-be
dixissem, ni vererer ne ex eventis fingere viderer. Sed
I-had-said unless I-feared lest from events to-invent I-seem But
tamen plurimi sunt testes me et initio, ne coniungeret
still very-many are witnesses me both at-the-beginning not to-join
se cum Caesare, monuisse Pompeium et postea, ne
himself with Caesar to-have-warned Pompey and afterward not
seiungeret. Coniunctione frangi senatus opes, diiunctione
to-separate By-union to-be-broken of-the-senate the-power by-separation
civile bellum excitari videbam. Atque utebar familiarissime
civil war to-be-roused I-saw And I-used most-familiarly
Caesare, Pompeium faciebam plurimi, sed erat meum
Caesar Pompey I-valued at-the-highest but was my
consilium cum fidele Pompeio tum salutare utrique.
counsel both loyal to-Pompey and salutary to-both
5 Quae praeterea providerim praetereo; nolo enim hunc
What besides I-foresaw I-pass-over I-do-not-wish for this-man
de me optime meritum existimare ea me suasisse
about me best deserving to-think those-things me to-have-advised
Pompeio, quibus ille si paruisset, esset hic quidem
to-Pompey which he if he-had-obeyed would-be this-man indeed
clarus in toga et princeps, sed tantas opes, quantas
illustrious in the-toga and leading but so-great power as-great-as

nunc habet, non haberet. Eundum in Hispaniam
now he-has not he-would-have To-be-gone into Spain
censui. Quod si fecisset, civile bellum nullum omnino
I-proposed But if he-had-done-it civil war none at-all
fuisset. Rationem haberi absentis non tam pugnavi
would-have-been Account to-be-taken of-him-absent not so-much did-I-fight
ut liceret, quam ut, quoniam ipso consule pugnante
that it-be-allowed as that since with-himself consul fighting
populus iusserat, haberetur. Causa orta belli est. Quid
the-people had-ordered it-be-taken The-cause arisen of-war has What
ego praetermisi aut monitorum aut querelarum, cum vel
I passed-over either of-warnings or of-complaints when even
iniquissimam pacem iustissimo bello anteferrem?
a-most-unfair peace to-a-most-just war I-preferred
Victa est auctoritas mea non tam a Pompeio (nam 6
Defeated was authority my not so-much by Pompey for
is movebatur) quam ab iis, qui duce Pompeio freti
he was-moved as by those who with-leader Pompey relying
peropportunam et rebus domesticis et cupiditatibus suis
very-opportune both for-affairs domestic and for-desires their
illius belli victoriam fore putabant. Susceptum bellum est
of-that war the-victory going-to-be thought Undertaken the-war was
quiescente me, depulsum ex Italia manente me, quoad
with-resting me driven from Italy with-remaining me as-long-as
potui; sed valuit apud me plus pudor meus quam timor;
I-could but prevailed with me more shame my than fear
veritus sum deesse Pompei saluti, cum ille aliquando non
feared I-have to-fail of-Pompey to-the-safety since he once not
defuisset meae. Itaque vel officio vel fama bonorum
had-failed mine And-so either by-duty or by-the-reputation of-good-men
vel pudore victus, ut in fabulis Amphiaraus, sic ego ‘prudens
or by-shame conquered as in the-plays Amphiaraus so I foreseeing

et sciens ad pestem ante oculos positam' sum profectus.
and knowing to destruction before eyes set have set-out
Quo in bello nihil adversi accidit non praedicente me.
Which in war nothing adverse happened not foretelling me
7 Qua re, quoniam, ut augures et astrologi solent, ego quoque
By-which thing since as augurs and astrologers are-wont I also
augur publicus ex meis superioribus praedictis constitui apud
augur public from my earlier predictions have-established with
te auctoritatem auguri et divinationis meae, debebit habere
you the-authority of-augury and of-divination my will-have-to have
fidem nostra praedictio. Non igitur ex alitis involatu nec e
credit our prediction Not then from of-a-bird the-flight nor from
cantu sinistro oscinis, ut in nostra disciplina est, nec ex
the-cry on-the-left of-a-singing-bird as in our discipline it-is nor from
tripudiis solistimis aut soniviis tibi auguror, sed habeo
the-feeding-omens most-favorable or noise-omens to-you do-I-augur but I-have
alia signa, quae observem; quae etsi non sunt certiora
other signs which I-observe which although not they-are more-certain
illis, minus tamen habent vel obscuritatis vel erroris.
than-those less still they-have either of-obscurity or of-error
8 Notantur autem mihi ad divinandum signa duplici quadam
Are-noted however by-me for divining signs in-two-fold a-certain
via; quarum alteram duco e Caesare ipso, alteram e
way of-which the-one I-draw from Caesar himself the-other from
temporum civilium natura atque ratione. In Caesare haec
of-times civil the-nature and reason In Caesar these
sunt: mitis clemensque natura, qualis exprimitur praeclaro
are a-mild and-merciful nature such-as is-expressed in-the-splendid
illo libro 'Querelarum' tuarum. Accedit quod mirifice
that book of-Complaints your There-is-added that wonderfully
ingeniis excellentibus, quale est tuum, delectatur. Praeterea
by-talents excellent such-as is yours he-is-delighted Besides

cedit multorum iustis et officio incensis, non inanibus
he-yields of-many to-just and by-duty kindled not empty
aut ambitiosis voluntatibus;
or self-seeking wishes
in quo vehementer eum consentiens Etruria movebit. 'Cur 9
in which vehemently him agreeing Etruria will-move Why
haec igitur adhuc parum profecerunt?' Quia non putat
these-things then so-far too-little have-achieved Because not he-thinks
se sustinere causas posse multorum, si tibi, cui
himself to-sustain the-causes to-be-able of-many if to-you with-whom
iustius videtur irasci posse, concesserit. 'Quae est
more-justly he-seems to-be-angry to-be-able he-has-yielded What is
igitur' inquies 'spes ab irato?' Eodem fonte se
then you-will-say the-hope from an-angry-man From-the-same fountain himself
hausturum intelleget laudes suas, e quo sit leviter
going-to-drink he-will-understand praises his from which he-has-been lightly
aspersus. Postremo homo valde est acutus et multum
sprinkled Finally the-man very is shrewd and much
providens; intellegit te, hominem in parte Italiae minime
foreseeing he-understands you a-man in a-part of-Italy least
contemnenda facile omnium nobilissimum et in communi
to-be-despised easily of-all most-noble and in the-common
re p. cuivis summorum tuae aetatis vel ingenio vel
thing public to-anyone of-the-highest of-your age either in-talent or
gratia vel fama populi R. parem, non posse
in-influence or in-reputation of-the-people Roman equal not to-be-able
prohiberi re publica diutius. Nolet hoc temporis
to-be-barred from-the-thing public longer He-will-not-wish this of-time
potius esse aliquando beneficium quam iam suum.
rather to-be sometime a-kindness than already his

10 Dixi de Caesare; nunc dicam de temporum rerumque
I-have-spoken about Caesar now I-will-speak about of-times and-of-affairs
natura. Nemo est tam inimicus ei causae, quam Pompeius
the-nature No-one is so hostile to-that cause which Pompey
animatus melius quam paratus susceperat, qui nos malos
with-spirit better than prepared had-undertaken who us bad
civis dicere aut homines improbos audeat. In quo admirari
citizens to-call or men wicked dares In which to-admire
soleo gravitatem et iustitiam et sapientiam Caesaris.
I-am-wont the-gravity and justice and wisdom of-Caesar
Numquam nisi honorificentissime Pompeium appellat. At
Never except most-honorably Pompey does-he-name But
in eius persona multa fecit asperius. Armorum ista
against his person many-things he-did more-harshly Of-arms those
et victoriae sunt facta, non Caesaris; at nos quem ad
and of-victory are deeds not of-Caesar but us in-what to
modum est complexus! Cassium sibi legavit, Brutum
manner has-he embraced Cassius for-himself he-made-legate Brutus
Galliae praefecit, Sulpicium Graeciae, Marcellum, cui
over-Gaul he-set Sulpicius over-Greece Marcellus with-whom
maxime suscensebat, cum summa illius dignitate restituit.
most he-was-angry with highest his dignity he-restored

11 Quo igitur haec spectant? Rerum hoc natura et civilium
Whither then these-things look Of-things this the-nature and of-civil
temporum non patietur, nec manens nec mutata ratio
times not will-allow nor remaining nor changed reasoning
feret, primum ut non in causa pari eadem sit et condicio
will-bear first that not in a-cause equal the-same be both the-condition
et fortuna omnium, deinde ut in eam civitatem boni viri
and fortune of-all then that into that state good men

et boni cives nulla ignominia notati non revertantur, in
and good citizens with-no disgrace branded not return into
quam tot nefariorum scelerum condemnati reverterunt.
which of-so-many wicked crimes the-condemned have-returned
Habes augurium meum; quo, si quid addubitarem, non 12
You-have augury my which if anything I-doubted not
potius uterer quam illa consolatione, qua facile fortem
rather would-I-use than that consolation with-which easily a-brave
virum sustentarem, te, si explorata victoria arma sumpsisses
man I-would-sustain you if with-ascertained victory arms you-had-taken-up
pro re p. (ita enim tum putabas), non nimis
for the-thing public so for then you-thought not too-much
esse laudandum, sin propter incertos exitus eventusque
to-be to-be-praised but-if on-account-of uncertain outcomes and-events
bellorum posse accidere ut vinceremur putasses, non
of-wars to-be-able to-happen that we-be-conquered you-had-thought not
debere te ad secundam fortunam bene paratum fuisse,
to-be-bound you for favorable fortune well prepared to-have-been
adversam ferre nullo modo posse. Disputarem etiam quanto
adverse to-bear in-no way to-be-able I-would-argue also how-great
solacio tibi conscientia tui facti, quantae delectationi
a-consolation to-you the-consciousness of-your deed how-great a-delight
in rebus adversis litterae esse deberent; commemorarem non
in affairs adverse letters to-be ought I-would-recall not
solum veterum, sed horum etiam recentium vel ducum vel
only of-the-old but of-these also recent either leaders or
comitum tuorum gravissimos casus; etiam externos multos
companions your the-gravest misfortunes also foreign many
claros viros nominarem; levat enim dolorem communis
illustrious men I-would-name relieves for grief of-a-common
quasi legis et humanae condicionis recordatio;
as-it-were law and of-human condition the-recollection

13 exponerem etiam quem ad modum hic et quanta in turba
I-would-set-forth also in-what to manner here and how-great in crowd
quantaque in confusione rerum omnium viveremus; necesse
and-how-great in confusion of-things all we-live necessary
est enim minore desiderio perdita re p. carere quam
it-is for with-less longing with-ruined thing public to-be-without than
bona. Sed hoc genere nihil opus est. Incolumem te cito,
good But of-this kind nothing need is Safe you quickly
ut spero, vel potius ut perspicio, videbimus. Interea tibi
as I-hope or rather as I-perceive we-shall-see Meanwhile to-you
absenti et huic, qui adest, imagini animi et corporis tui,
absent and to-this who is-present image of-mind and of-body your
constantissimo atque optimo filio tuo, studium, officium,
most-steadfast and best son your zeal duty
operam, laborem meum iam pridem et pollicitus sum
effort labor my already long-ago both promised I-have
et detuli, nunc hoc amplius, quod me amicissime cotidie
and offered now this more because me most-friendly daily
magis Caesar amplectitur, familiares quidem eius sicuti
more Caesar embraces friends indeed his as
neminem. Apud quem quicquid valebo vel auctoritate
no-one With whom whatever I-shall-avail either in-authority
vel gratia, valebo tibi. Tu cura ut cum firmitudine
or in-influence I-shall-avail for-you You take-care that both with-firmness
te animi tum etiam spe optima sustentes.
yourself of-mind and also with-hope best you-sustain

Caecina asks pardon that his book was late: his son feared it would harm him, since he is already exiled for writing against Caesar while every Pompeian prayed for Caesar's defeat. He wrote of Cicero sparingly and timidly; praise of another is the one free kind, and he has cut so much that the work is a ladder with rungs removed. At Caesar's name he trembles for his judgment, when even Cicero shelters behind Brutus in the Orator. He asks Cicero to correct the book or keep it back, and to manage his restoration, since his son is too young and Cicero knows what pleases Caesar.

Caecina Ciceroni p. s.
Caecina to-Cicero very-much greeting

Quod tibi non tam celeriter liber est redditus, ignosce 1
That to-you not so quickly the-book has-been delivered pardon
timori nostro et miserere temporis. Filius, ut audio,
to-fear our and pity the-time My-son as I-hear
pertimuit, neque iniuria, si liber exisset (quoniam non
was-terrified nor wrongly if the-book had-gone-out since not
tam interest quo animo scribatur quam quo accipiatur),
so-much it-matters in-what spirit it-is-written as in-what it-is-received
ne ea res inepte mihi noceret, cum praesertim adhuc
lest that thing foolishly me should-harm when especially still
stili poenas dem. Qua quidem in re singulari sum
for-the-pen penalties I-pay Which indeed in matter singular I-am
fato. Nam cum mendum scripturae litura tollatur, stultitia
in-fate For while a-fault of-writing by-erasure is-removed folly
fama multetur, meus error exsilio corrigitur, cuius
by-reputation is-fined my error by-exile is-corrected of-which
summa criminis est quod armatus adversario male dixi.
the-sum of-charge is that armed my-adversary ill I-spoke-of

2 Nemo nostrum est, ut opinor, quin vota Victoriae suae
No-one of-us is as I-think who-not vows for-Victory his
fecerit, nemo, quin, etiam cum de alia re immolaret,
has-made no-one who-not even when about another thing he-sacrificed
tamen eo quidem ipso tempore, ut quam primum Caesar
still at-that indeed very time that as first Caesar
superaretur, optarit. Hoc si non cogitat, omnibus rebus
be-overcome has-wished This if not he-considers in-all things
felix est; si scit et persuasus est, quid irascitur ei
fortunate he-is if he-knows and convinced is why is-he-angry with-him
qui aliquid scripsit contra suam voluntatem, cum ignorit
who something wrote against his wish when he-has-pardoned
omnibus qui multa deos venerati sint contra eius salutem?
all who many-things the-gods entreated have against his safety
3 Sed ut eodem revertar, causa haec fuit timoris: Scripsi
But that to-the-same I-may-return the-cause this was of-the-fear I-wrote
de te parce medius fidius et timide non revocans me
about you sparingly so-help-me god-of-faith and timidly not reining-in me
ipse sed paene refugiens. Genus autem hoc scripturae non
myself but almost recoiling The-kind however this of-writing not
modo liberum sed incitatum atque elatum esse debere quis
only free but spirited and elevated to-be ought who
ignorat? Solutum existimatur esse alteri male dicere (tamen
knows-not Free it-is-thought to-be to-another ill to-speak still
cavendum est ne in petulantiam incidas), impeditum
to-be-guarded-against it-is lest into insolence you-fall hampered
se ipsum laudare, ne vitium adrogantiae subsequatur, solum
oneself self to-praise lest the-fault of-arrogance follow alone
vero liberum alterum laudare, de quo quicquid detrahas,
indeed free another to-praise from whom whatever you-take-away
necesse est aut infirmitati aut invidiae adsignetur. Ac nescio
necessary it-is either to-weakness or to-envy be-assigned And I-know-not

an tibi gratius opportuniusque acciderit; nam quod
whether to-you more-pleasing and-more-opportune it-has-turned-out for what
praeclare facere non poteram, primum erat non attingere,
splendidly to-do not I-could the-first was not to-touch
secundum beneficium quam parcissime facere. Sed tamen ego
the-second favor as most-sparingly to-do But still I
quidem me sustinui; multa minui, multa sustuli, complura
indeed myself restrained many-things I-lessened many I-removed several
ne posui quidem. Quem ad modum igitur, scalarum gradus
not set-down even In-what to manner then of-a-ladder the-rungs
si alios tollas, alios incidas, non nullos male haerentis
if some you-remove others you-cut-into not none ill holding
relinquas, ruinae periculum struas, non ascensum pares,
you-leave of-collapse the-danger you-build not ascent you-prepare
sic tot malis tum vinctum tum fractum studium
so by-so-many evils now bound now broken the-zeal
scribendi quid dignum auribus aut probabile potest adferre?
of-writing what worthy of-ears or acceptable can it-bring
Cum vero ad ipsius Caesaris nomen veni, toto corpore 4
When indeed to himself of-Caesar the-name I-came in-the-whole body
contremesco non poenae metu, sed illius iudici. Totum
I-tremble not of-punishment from-fear but of-his judgment The-whole
enim Caesarem non novi. Quem putas animum esse, ubi
for Caesar not I-know What do-you-think the-mind to-be when
secum loquitur? ‘Hoc probabit, hoc verbum suspiciosum
with-himself he-talks This he-will-approve this word suspicious
est. Quid, si hoc muto? At vereor ne peius sit. Age vero,
is What if this I-change But I-fear lest worse it-be Come indeed
laudo aliquem; non offendo? Cum porro reprendo aliquem,
I-praise someone not I-offend-him When further I-blame someone
quid, si non vult? Armati stilum persequitur; victi
what if not he-wishes-it Of-the-armed the-pen he-pursues the-conquered

et nondum restituti quid faciet?' Auges etiam tu mihi
and not-yet restored what will-he-do You-increase also you for-me
timorem, qui in 'Oratore' tuo caves tibi per Brutum
fear who in Orator your you-guard yourself through Brutus
et ad excusationem socium quaeris. Ubi hoc omnium
and for excuse a-partner you-seek When this of-all
patronus facit, quid me, veterem tuum, nunc omnium
the-patron does what me old your now of-all
clientem, sentire oportet? In hac igitur calumnia timoris et
the-client to-feel ought In this then false-charge of-fear and
caecae suspicionis tormento, cum plurima ad alieni
of-blind suspicion torment when very-many-things to of-another's
sensus coniecturam, non ad suum iudicium scribantur,
feeling conjecture not to one's-own judgment are-written
quam difficile sit evadere, si minus expertus es, quod
how difficult it-is to-escape if less experienced you-are because
te ad omnia summum atque excellens ingenium armavit,
you for all-things a-highest and excellent talent has-armed
nos sentimus. Sed tamen ego filio dixeram, librum
we feel But still I to-my-son had-said the-book
tibi legeret et auferret aut ea condicione daret, si
to-you he-should-read and take-away or on-that condition give if
reciperes te correcturum, hoc est si totum alium faceres.
you-undertook you going-to-correct-it this is if wholly another you-made-it
5 De Asiatico itinere, quamquam summa necessitas premebat,
About the-Asiatic journey although the-highest necessity pressed
ut imperasti, feci. Te pro me quid horter? Vides tempus
as you-ordered I-did You for me why should-I-exhort You-see the-time
venisse, quo necesse sit de nobis constitui. Nihil est,
to-have-come when necessary it-is about us to-be-decided Nothing is
mi Cicero, quod filium meum exspectes. Adulescens
my Cicero why son my you-should-await A-young-man

est; omnia excogitare vel studio vel aetate vel metu
he-is all-things to-devise either from-zeal or from-age or from-fear
non potest. Totum negotium tu sustineas oportet; in te
not he-can The-whole business you should-sustain it-is-right in you
mihi omnis spes est. Tu pro tua prudentia, quibus rebus
to-me all hope is You for your prudence in-what things
gaudeat, quibus capiatur Caesar, tenes; a te omnia
he-rejoices by-what he-is-captured Caesar you-hold from you all-things
proficiscantur et per te ad exitum perducantur necesse
should-proceed and through you to the-outcome be-brought necessary
est; apud ipsum multum, apud eius omnis plurimum potes.
it-is with himself much with his all very-much you-can
Unum tibi si persuaseris, non hoc esse tui muneris, si 6
One-thing to-yourself if you-have-persuaded not this to-be your duty if
quid rogatus fueris, ut facias (quamquam id magnum
anything asked you-have-been that you-do although that great
et amplum est), sed totum tuum esse onus, perficies;
and ample is but whole yours to-be the-burden you-will-accomplish-it
nisi forte aut in miseria nimis stulte aut in amicitia nimis
unless perhaps either in misery too foolishly or in friendship too
impudenter tibi onus impono. Sed utrique rei excusationem
impudently on-you a-burden I-impose But for-each thing excuse
tuae vitae consuetudo dat. Nam quod ita consuesti pro
of-your life the-custom gives For because so you-are-accustomed for
amicis laborare, non iam sic sperant abs te sed etiam sic
friends to-labor not now so they-hope from you but even so
imperant tibi familiares. Quod ad librum attinet quem tibi
they-command you your-friends As to the-book pertains which to-you
filius dabit, peto a te ne exeat, aut ita corrigas ne mihi noceat.
my-son will-give I-ask of you lest it-go-out or so correct-it lest me it-harm

Largus told Cicero that Caecina must leave Sicily by the Kalends of January. Cicero pressed Balbus and Oppius, whose acts in Caesar's absence Caesar ratifies, and they granted that Caecina may stay in Sicily as long as he wishes without offense. Caecina's letter asks whether to settle in Sicily or go to his business in Asia; Cicero advises Sicily, for its nearness to letters and to a quick return. He will commend him to the proconsul Furfanius, and encloses a copy of his letter.

Cicero Caecinae.

Cicero to-Caecina

1 Cum esset mecum Largus, homo tui studiosus, locutus
When had with-me Largus a-man of-you devoted spoken
K. Ianuarias tibi praefinitas esse, quod omnibus rebus
the-Kalends of-January for-you fixed to-be because in-all things
perspexeram, quae Balbus et Oppius absente Caesare
I-had-perceived what-things Balbus and Oppius with-absent Caesar
egissent, ea solere illi rata esse, egi vehementer cum
had-done those to-be-wont for-him ratified to-be I-dealt vehemently with
iis ut hoc mihi darent, tibi in Sicilia, quoad vellemus,
them that this to-me they-should-grant you in Sicily as-long-as we-wished
esse uti liceret. Qui mihi consuessent aut libenter polliceri
to-be that it-be-allowed Who to-me had-been-accustomed either gladly to-promise
si quid esset eius modi quod eorum animos non offenderet,
if anything were of-that kind which their minds not offended
aut etiam negare et adferre rationem cur negarent, huic
or even to-refuse and to-bring a-reason why they-refused to-this
meae rogationi potius non continuo responderunt; eodem
my request rather not at-once replied on-the-same
die tamen ad me reverterunt; mihi hoc dederunt ut esses
day still to me they-returned to-me this granted that you-might-be
in Sicilia, quoad velles; se praestaturos nihil ex eo
in Sicily as-long-as you-wished themselves going-to-answer-for nothing from it

te offensionis habiturum. Quoniam quid tibi permittatur
you of-offense going-to-have Since what to-you is-permitted
cognosti, quid mihi placeat puto te scire oportere.
you-have-learned what to-me pleases I-think you to-know ought
Actis his rebus litterae a te mihi redditae sunt, quibus 2
Done these things a-letter from you to-me delivered was in-which
a me consilium petis quid sim tibi auctor, in Siciliane
from me counsel you-seek what I-be to-you as-adviser in whether-Sicily
subsidas an ut ad reliquias Asiaticae negotiationis
you-should-settle or that to the-remnants of-Asiatic business
proficiscare. Haec tua deliberatio non mihi convenire visa
you-should-set-out This your deliberation not to-me to-agree seemed
est cum oratione Largi. Ille enim mecum, quasi tibi
has with the-speech of-Largus He for with-me as-if for-you
non liceret in Sicilia diutius commorari, ita locutus
not it-were-allowed in Sicily longer to-stay so spoken
erat, tu autem, quasi concessum sit, ita deliberas. Sed ego,
had you however as-if granted it-be so you-deliberate But I
sive hoc sive illud est, in Sicilia censeo commorandum.
whether this or that it-is in Sicily I-advise to-be-stayed
Propinquitas locorum vel ad impetrandum adiuvat crebris
The-nearness of-the-places both for obtaining helps by-frequent
litteris et nuntiis vel ad reditus celeritatem re aut
letters and messengers and for of-return speed with-the-matter either
impetrata, quod spero, aut aliqua ratione confecta. Quam
obtained which I-hope or by-some means settled Which
ob rem censeo magno opere commorandum.
on-account-of thing I-advise in-great measure to-be-stayed
T. Furfanio Postumo, familiari meo, legatisque eius, 3
To-Titus Furfanius Postumus friend my and-to-legates his
item meis familiaribus, diligentissime te commendabo,
likewise my friends most-diligently you I-will-commend

cum venerint. Erant enim omnes Mutinae. Viri sunt
when they-come They-were for all at-Mutina Men they-are
optimi et tui similium studiosi et mei necessarii. Quae
excellent and of-you like-men devoted and to-me connected What
mihi venient in mentem quae ad te pertinere arbitrabor,
to-me will-come into mind which to you to-pertain I-shall-think
ea mea sponte faciam; si quid ignorabo, de
those-things of-my-own accord I-will-do if anything I-shall-not-know about
eo admonitus omnium studia vincam. Ego etsi coram
it reminded of-all the-zeal I-will-surpass I although face-to-face
de te cum Furfanio ita loquar, ut tibi litteris meis
about you with Furfanius so I-will-speak that for-you a-letter my
ad eum nihil opus sit, tamen, quoniam tuis placuit te
to him no need be still since to-yours it-pleased you
habere meas litteras, quas ei redderes, morem iis
to-have my letter which to-him you-might-deliver compliance to-them
gessi. Earum litterarum exemplum infra scriptum est.
I-showed Of-that letter a-copy below written is

VI.9 · TO FURFANIUS, FOR CAECINA

Cicero commends Aulus Caecina to the proconsul Furfanius. He used his father much and has loved the son from boyhood for his promise of probity and eloquence, living with him in friendship and in common studies. Knowing what Furfanius feels about the fortune of good men and the state's calamities, he asks only that his own recommendation add to the goodwill Furfanius will show Caecina unasked as much as Furfanius values Cicero.

M. Cicero Furfanio procos. s.
Marcus Cicero to-Furfanius proconsul greeting

Cum A. Caecina tanta mihi familiaritas consuetudoque 1
With Aulus Caecina so-great to-me intimacy and-intercourse
semper fuit, ut nulla maior esse possit; nam et patre
always has-been that no greater to-be can for both father
eius, claro homine et forti viro, plurimum usi sumus
his an-illustrious man and brave man very-much used we-have
et hunc a puero, quod et spem magnam mihi adferebat
and him from a-boy because both hope great to-me he-brought
summae probitatis summaeque eloquentiae et vivebat
of-highest probity and-highest eloquence and lived
mecum coniunctissime non solum officiis amicitiae sed
with-me most-closely not only by-duties of-friendship but
etiam studiis communibus, sic semper dilexi, nullo ut
also by-studies common so always I-loved no that
cum homine coniunctius viverem.
with man more-closely I-might-live

Nihil attinet me plura scribere; quam mihi necesse sit eius 2
Nothing it-matters me more to-write how to-me necessary be his
salutem et fortunas quibuscumque rebus possim tueri, vides.
safety and fortunes by-whatever means I-can to-protect you-see
Reliquum est ut, cum cognorim pluribus rebus quid tu et
Remaining it-is that since I-have-learned by-many things what you both
de bonorum fortuna et de rei p. calamitatibus
about of-good-men the-fortune and about of-the-thing public the-calamities
sentires, nihil a te petam nisi ut ad eam voluntatem,
felt nothing from you should-I-ask except that to that goodwill
quam tua sponte erga Caecinam habiturus es, tantus
which of-your own-accord toward Caecina going-to-have you-are so-great

cumulus accedat commendatione mea, quanti me a te
a-heap be-added by-the-recommendation my at-how-much me by you
fieri intellego. Hoc mihi gratius facere nihil potes. Vale.
to-be-valued I-understand This to-me more-pleasing to-do nothing can-you Farewell

VI.10 · TO TREBIANUS

Trebianus' long stay in the civil war grieved Cicero, and his slow recovery of fortune and dignity concerns him as much as Cicero's own misfortunes once concerned Trebianus. He has told Postumulenus, Sestius, Atticus, and Theudas that all he has is at the service of Trebianus and his children. Caesar is not estranged, and his intimates cultivate Cicero, who will press for Trebianus' restoration. Trebianus bears the times bravely; the injustice will not last, since the man with most power slips daily toward fairness and the state must revive.

M. Cicero Trebiano s.
Marcus Cicero to-Trebianus greeting

1 Ego quanti te faciam semperque fecerim quantique me
I how-much you I-value and-always have-valued and-how-much me
a te fieri intellexerim, sum mihi ipse testis. Nam
by you to-be-valued I-have-understood am to-myself myself witness For
et consilium tuum vel casus potius diutius in armis
both the-plan your or the-chance rather longer in arms
civilibus commorandi semper mihi magno dolori fuit, et
civil of-staying always to-me of-great grief was and
hic eventus, quod tardius quam est aequum et quam
this outcome that more-slowly than is fair and than
ego vellem reciperas fortunam et dignitatem tuam, mihi
I would-wish you-recover the-fortune and dignity your to-me
non minori curae est quam tibi semper fuerunt casus
not of-less care is than to-you always were the-misfortunes

mei. Itaque et Postumuleno et Sestio et saepissime
my And-so both to-Postumulenus and to-Sestius and very-often
Attico nostro proximeque Theudae, liberto tuo, totum me
to-Atticus our and-most-recently to-Theudas freedman your whole myself
patefeci et haec iis singulis saepe dixi, quacumque
I-have-opened and these-things to-them individually often I-said by-whatever
re possem, me tibi et liberis tuis satis facere cupere,
means I-could me to-you and to-children your satisfaction to-make to-desire
idque tu ad tuos velim scribas, haec quidem
and-that you to your-people I-would-wish write these-things indeed
certe, quae in potestate mea sunt, ut operam, consilium,
certainly which in power my are that effort counsel
rem, fidem meam sibi ad omnis res paratam putent.
property loyalty my for-them for all things ready they-think
Si auctoritate et gratia tantum possem quantum in ea 2
If by-authority and influence so-much I-could as-much-as in that
re p., de qua ita meritus sum, posse deberem, tu
thing public about which so deserved I-have to-be-able I-ought you
quoque is esses, qui fuisti, cum omni gradu amplissimo
also the-one would-be who you-were both of-every rank most-ample
dignissimus tum certe ordinis tui facile princeps. Sed
most-worthy and certainly of-order your easily the-leader But
quoniam eodem tempore eademque de causa nostrum
since at-the-same time and-the-same for cause of-us
uterque cecidit, tibi et illa polliceor quae supra scripsi,
each fell to-you both those-things I-promise which above I-wrote
quae sunt adhuc mea, et ea quae praeterea videor
which are still mine and those-things which besides I-seem
mihi ex aliqua parte retinere tamquam ex reliquiis pristinae
to-myself in some part to-retain as-if from the-remains of-former
dignitatis. Neque enim ipse Caesar, ut multis rebus intellegere
dignity Nor for himself Caesar as by-many things to-understand

potui, est alienus a nobis et omnes fere familiarissimi eius
I-could is estranged from us and all almost most-intimate his
casu devincti magnis meis veteribus officiis me diligenter
by-chance bound by-great my old services me diligently
observant et colunt. Itaque, si qui mihi erit aditus de tuis
observe and cultivate And-so if any to-me will-be access about your
fortunis, id est de tua incolumitate, in qua sunt omnia,
fortunes that is about your preservation in which are all-things
agendi, quod quidem cotidie magis ex eorum sermonibus
to-be-done which indeed daily more from their conversations
adducor ut sperem, agam per me ipse et moliar.
I-am-led that I-hope I-will-do-it through me myself and I-will-strive
3 Singula persequi non est necesse; universum studium
Individual-things to-pursue not is necessary the-whole zeal
meum et benevolentiam ad te defero. Sed magni mea
my and goodwill to you I-offer But greatly to-me
interest hoc tuos omnis scire, quod tuis litteris fieri
it-concerns this yours all to-know which by-your letter to-be-done
potest ut intellegant, omnia Ciceronis patere Trebiano.
can that they-understand all-things of-Cicero to-be-open to-Trebianus
Hoc eo pertinet, ut nihil existiment esse tam difficile
This to-that tends that nothing they-think to-be so difficult
quod non pro te mihi susceptum iucundum sit futurum.
which not for you by-me undertaken pleasant is going-to-be
4 Antea misissem ad te litteras, si genus scribendi invenirem;
Before I-would-have-sent to you a-letter if a-kind of-writing I-found
tali enim tempore aut consolari amicorum est aut polliceri.
at-such for a-time either to-console of-friends it-is or to-promise
Consolatione non utebar, quod ex multis audiebam quam
Consolation not I-used because from many I-heard how
fortiter sapienterque ferres iniuriam temporum quamque te
bravely and-wisely you-bore the-injury of-the-times and-how you

vehementer consolaretur conscientia factorum et consiliorum
vehemently consoled the-consciousness of-deeds and of-counsels
tuorum. Quod quidem si facis, magnum fructum studiorum
your Which indeed if you-do great fruit of-studies
optimorum capis, in quibus te semper scio esse
most-excellent you-reap in which you always I-know to-have-been
versatum, idque ut facias etiam atque etiam te hortor.
engaged and-that that you-do again and again you I-exhort
Simul et illud tibi, homini peritissimo rerum et 5
At-the-same-time also that to-you a-man most-skilled in-affairs and
exemplorum et omnis vetustatis, ne ipse quidem rudis,
in-examples and in-all antiquity not myself even unskilled
sed in studio minus fortasse quam vellem, in rebus atque
but in study less perhaps than I-would-wish in affairs and
usu plus etiam quam vellem versatus spondeo, tibi
practice more even than I-would-wish engaged I-pledge to-you
istam acerbitatem et iniuriam non diuturnam fore. Nam
that bitterness and injustice not lasting going-to-be For
et ipse, qui plurimum potest, cotidie mihi delabi
both he-himself who most can daily to-me to-slip-down
ad aequitatem et ad rerum naturam videtur, et ipsa
to fairness and to of-things the-nature seems and itself
causa ea est, ut iam simul cum re p., quae in
the-cause that is that already together with the-thing public which into
perpetuum iacere non potest, necessario revivescat atque
perpetuity to-lie not can necessarily revive and
recreetur cotidieque aliquid fit lenius et liberalius quam
be-restored and-daily something is-done more-gently and more-liberally than
timebamus. Quae quoniam in temporum inclinationibus
we-feared Which since on of-times turns

saepe parvis posita sunt, omnia momenta observabimus
often small placed are all moments we-will-watch
neque ullum praetermittemus tui iuvandi et levandi locum.
nor any will-we-pass-over of-you of-helping and of-relieving occasion
6 Itaque illud alterum, quod dixi, litterarum genus cotidie
And-so that other which I-mentioned of-letter kind daily
mihi, ut spero, fiet proclivius, ut etiam polliceri
for-me as I-hope will-become easier so-that even to-promise
possim. Id re quam verbis faciam libentius. Tu velim
I-may-be-able That in-deed than in-words I-will-do more-gladly You I-would-wish
existimes et pluris te amicos habere quam qui in isto casu
think both more you friends to-have than who in that misfortune
sint ac fuerint, quantum quidem ego intellegere potuerim, et
are and have-been as-far-as indeed I to-understand could and
me concedere eorum nemini. Fortem fac animum habeas
me to-yield of-them to-none Brave see-that a-spirit you-have
et magnum, quod est in uno te; quae sunt in fortuna,
and great which is in you alone what-things are in fortune
temporibus regentur et consiliis nostris providebuntur.
by-the-times will-be-ruled and by-counsels our will-be-provided-for

VI.11 · TREBIANUS RESTORED

Dolabella, whom Cicero once only loved, has now so obliged him, first in his property and now in Trebianus' safety, that he owes no one more; Cicero would rather Trebianus congratulated him than thanked him. Trebianus should forget what he lost and think of what he has recovered: he will live with his own people and with Cicero, having gained more dignity than he lost in property. Vestorius writes that Trebianus thanks Cicero greatly.

M. Cicero s. d. Trebiano.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Trebianus

Dolabellam antea tantum modo diligebam, obligatus ei 1

Dolabella before only merely I-loved obliged to-him

nihil eram (nec enim acciderat mihi opus esse, et ille

in-nothing was-I nor for had-it-happened for-me need to-be and he

mihi debebat, quod non defueram eius periculis); nunc tanto

to-me owed because not I-had-failed his dangers now so-much

sum devinctus eius beneficio, quod et antea in re et hoc

am-I bound his by-kindness that both before in property and at-this

tempore in salute tua cumulatissime mihi satis fecit, ut

time in safety your most-abundantly to-me satisfaction he-has-made that

nemini plus debeam. Qua in re tibi gratulor ita vehementer

to-no-one more I-owe Which in matter you I-congratulate so vehemently

ut te quoque mihi gratulari quam gratias agere malim;

that you also me to-congratulate than thanks to-give I-would-prefer

alterum omnino non desidero, alterum vere facere poteris.

the-one altogether not I-want the-other truly to-do you-will-be-able

Quod reliquum est, quoniam tibi virtus et dignitas tua 2

As-to-what remaining is since to-you virtue and dignity your

reditum ad tuos aperuit, est tuae sapientiae magnitudinisque

the-return to yours has-opened it-is of-your wisdom and-greatness

animi quid amiseris oblivisci, quid reciperaris cogitare.

of-mind what you-have-lost to-forget what you-have-recovered to-think-of

Vives cum tuis, vives nobiscum; plus adquisisti

You-will-live with yours you-will-live with-us more you-have-acquired

dignitatis quam amisisti rei familiaris; quae ipsa tum

of-dignity than you-have-lost of-property domestic which itself then

esset iucundior, si ulla res esset publica. Vestorius, noster

would-be more-pleasant if any thing there-were public Vestorius our

familiaris, ad me scripsit te mihi maximas gratias agere. Haec

friend to me wrote you to-me greatest thanks to-give This

praedicatio tua mihi valde grata est eaque te uti facile patior
proclaiming your to-me very pleasing is and-that you to-use easily I-allow
cum apud alios tum me hercule apud Sironem, nostrum
both with others and so-help-me Hercules with Siro our
amicum. Quae enim facimus, ea prudentissimo cuique
friend What-things for we-do those by-the-most-prudent each
maxime probata esse volumus. Te cupio videre quam primum.
most approved to-be we-wish You I-desire to-see as first

VI.12 · THE TRUMPET OF CIVIL WAR

Cicero congratulates Ampius Balbus truly: his restoration is settled. Cicero pleaded his cause more openly than the times allowed, and Caesar's friends, Pansa, Hirtius, Balbus, Oppius, Matius, and Postumius, love him; Pansa led and Tillius Cimber prevailed with Caesar. The pass was held back because certain men resent pardon for the man they call the trumpet of civil war, but Pansa has undertaken to bring it soon. Cicero writes plainly because Ampius' wife and daughter thought him anxious, and reminds him that learning and letters are now their safety.

Cicero Ampio s. p.
Cicero to-Ampius greeting very-much
1 Gratulor tibi, mi Balbe, vereque gratulor nec sum tam
I-congratulate you my Balbus and-truly I-congratulate nor am-I so
stultus ut te usura falsi gaudi frui velim, deinde
foolish that you the-use of-a-false joy to-enjoy I-should-wish then
frangi repente atque ita cadere ut nulla res te ad
to-be-broken suddenly and so to-fall that no thing you to
aequitatem animi possit postea extollere. Egi tuam causam
evenness of-mind could afterward raise I-pleaded your cause
apertius quam mea tempora ferebant. Vincebatur enim
more-openly than my times allowed Was-conquered for

fortuna ipsa debilitatae gratiae nostrae tui caritate et meo
fortune itself of-weakened influence our of-you by-affection and by-my
perpetuo erga te amore culto a te diligentissime. Omnia
perpetual toward you love cultivated by you most-diligently All
promissa confirmata certa et rata sunt, quae ad reditum
promises confirmed certain and ratified are which to return
et ad salutem tuam pertinent; vidi, cognovi, interfui.
and to safety your pertain I-saw learned was-present
Etenim omnis Caesaris familiaris satis opportune habeo 2
For-indeed all of-Caesar friends sufficiently opportunely I-have
implicatos consuetudine et benevolentia sic ut, cum ab illo
entangled by-intercourse and goodwill so that when from him
discesserint, me habeant proximum. Hoc Pansa, Hirtius,
they-have-departed me they-have nearest This Pansa Hirtius
Balbus, Oppius, Matius, Postumius plane ita faciunt ut me
Balbus Oppius Matius Postumius plainly so do that me
unice diligant. Quod si mihi per me efficiendum fuisset, non
singularly they-love But if for-me by me to-be-effected it-had-been not
me paeniteret pro ratione temporum ita esse molitum;
me would-it-repent according-to the-reckoning of-the-times so to-have striven
sed nihil est a me inservitum temporis causa. Veteres mihi
but nothing was by me served of-the-time for-the-sake Old for-me
necessitudines cum his omnibus intercedunt, quibuscum ego
connections with these all exist with-whom I
agere de te non destiti; principem tamen habuimus Pansam,
to-deal about you not have-ceased as-leader still we-had Pansa
tui studiosissimum, mei cupidum, qui valeret apud illum non
of-you most-devoted of-me desirous who prevailed with him not
minus auctoritate quam gratia. Cimber autem Tillius mihi
less in-authority than in-influence Cimber however Tillius to-me
plane satis fecit. Valent tamen apud Caesarem non tam
plainly satisfaction has-made Prevail still with Caesar not so-much

ambitiosae rogationes quam necessariae; quam quia Cimber
self-seeking requests as necessary which because Cimber
habebat, plus valuit quam pro ullo alio valere potuisset.
had more it-prevailed than for any other to-prevail could-have
3 Diploma statim non est datum, quod mirifica est improbitas
The-pass at-once not was given because wonderful is the-wickedness
in quibusdam, qui tulissent acerbius veniam tibi dari,
in certain-men who would-have-borne more-bitterly pardon to-you to-be-given
quem illi appellant 'tubam belli civilis,' multaque ita
whom they call the-trumpet of-war civil and-many-things so
dicunt quasi non gaudeant id bellum incidisse. Qua re
they-say as-if not they-rejoice that war to-have-occurred By-which thing
visum est occultius agendum neque ullo modo divulgandum
seemed it-has more-secretly to-be-acted nor in-any way to-be-divulged
de te iam esse perfectum; sed id erit perbrevi, nec
about you already to-be accomplished but that will-be very-shortly nor
dubito quin legente te has litteras confecta iam res
do-I-doubt but-that with-reading you this letter completed already the-matter
futura sit. Pansa quidem mihi, gravis homo et certus,
going-to-be be Pansa indeed to-me a-weighty man and reliable
non solum confirmavit verum etiam recepit perceleriter se
not only affirmed but also undertook very-quickly himself
ablaturum diploma. Mihi tamen placuit haec ad te
going-to-carry-off the-pass To-me still it-pleased these-things to you
perscribi; minus enim te firmum sermo Eppuleiae tuae
to-be-written-fully less for you firm the-talk of-Eppuleia your
lacrimaeque Ampiae declarabant quam significant tuae litterae,
and-the-tears of-Ampia showed than indicate your letter
atque illae arbitrabantur, quoniam a te abessent ipsae,
and they thought since from you they-were-away themselves
multo in graviore te cura futurum. Qua re magno opere
much in heavier you care going-to-be By-which thing in-great measure

e re putavi angoris et doloris tui levandi causa
from the-matter I-thought of-anguish and of-grief your to-be-relieved for-the-sake
pro certis ad te ea, quae essent certa, perscribi.
as certain to you those-things which were certain to-be-written-fully
Scis me antea sic solitum esse scribere ad te, magis 4
You-know me before so wont to-have-been to-write to you more
ut consolarer fortem virum atque sapientem quam ut
that I-might-console a-brave man and wise than that
exploratam spem salutis ostenderem nisi eam, quam ab ipsa
ascertained hope of-safety I-might-show except that which from itself
re p., cum hic ardor restinctus esset, sperari oportere
the-thing public when this fire extinguished had-been to-be-hoped it-was-right
censerem. Recordare tuas litteras, quibus et magnum
I-thought Recall your letters in-which both great
animum mihi semper ostendisti et ad omnis casus ferendos
spirit to-me always you-showed and for all chances to-be-borne
constantem ac paratum. Quod ego non mirabar, cum
steadfast and ready Which I not wondered-at since
recordarer te et a primis temporibus aetatis in re
I-recalled you both from the-first times of-age in the-thing
p. esse versatum et tuos magistratus in ipsa discrimina
public to-have been-engaged and your magistracies into the-very crises
incidisse salutis fortunarumque communium et in hoc
to-have-fallen of-safety and-of-fortunes common and into this
ipsum bellum esse ingressum, non solum ut victor beatus
very war to-have entered not only that as-victor happy
sed etiam ut, si ita accidisset, victus sapiens esses.
but also that if so it-had-happened conquered wise you-might-be
Deinde, cum studium tuum consumas in virorum fortium 5
Then since zeal your you-spend in of-men brave
factis memoriae prodendis, considerare debes nihil tibi esse
deeds to-memory to-be-handed-down to-consider you-ought nothing by-you to-be

committendum quam ob rem eorum, quos laudas, te
to-be-done which on-account-of thing to-those whom you-praise you
non simillimum praebeas. Sed haec oratio magis esset apta ad
not most-like you-show But this speech more would-be suited to
illa tempora quae iam effugisti; nunc vero tantum te para
those times which already you-have-escaped now indeed only you prepare
ad haec nobiscum ferenda, quibus ego si quam medicinam
for these-things with-us to-be-borne for-which I if any medicine
invenirem, tibi quoque eandem traderem. Sed est unum
I-found to-you also the-same I-would-hand-over But there-is one
perfugium doctrina ac litterae, quibus semper usi sumus, quae
refuge learning and letters which always used we-have which
secundis rebus delectationem modo habere videbantur, nunc
in-favorable circumstances delight only to-have seemed now
vero etiam salutem. Sed ut ad initium revertar, cave
indeed also safety But that to the-beginning I-may-return beware-lest
dubites quin omnia de salute ac reditu tuo perfecta sint.
you-doubt that all-things about safety and return your accomplished are

VI.13 · TO LIGARIUS IN EXILE

Cicero has not written because words could neither soothe nor relieve Ligarius; now that he has great hope, he must. Caesar will not be harsher toward him, since time, opinion, and his own nature make him milder, and his intimates say so; Cicero has supplicated them with Ligarius' brothers since the news from Africa. If it comes slowly, it is from Caesar's business and his anger at the African cause, which daily softens. Cicero's resources are broken, but what remains of his influence is at the brothers' service; Ligarius should bear all with a brave spirit.

Cicero Ligario.

Cicero to-Ligarius

Etsi tali tuo tempore me aut consolandi aut iuvandi 1
Although at-such your time me either of-consoling or of-helping
tui causa scribere ad te aliquid pro nostra amicitia
you for-the-sake to-write to you something for our friendship
oportebat, tamen adhuc id non feceram, quia neque lenire
it-was-right still so-far that not I-had-done because neither to-soothe
videbar oratione neque levare posse dolorem tuum. Postea
I-seemed by-speech nor to-relieve to-be-able grief your After
vero quam magnam spem habere coepi fore ut te
indeed that great hope to-have I-began going-to-be that you
brevi tempore incolumem haberemus, facere non potui
in-short time safe we-should-have to-do not I-could
quin tibi et sententiam et voluntatem declararem meam.
but-that to-you both opinion and wish I-should-declare my
Primum igitur scribam, quod intellego et perspicio, non 2
First then I-will-write what I-understand and perceive not
fore in te Caesarem duriorem; nam et res eum
going-to-be toward you Caesar harsher for both circumstances him
cotidie et dies et opinio hominum et, ut mihi videtur,
daily and days and the-opinion of-men and as to-me it-seems
etiam sua natura mitiorem facit; idque cum de reliquis
also his-own nature milder makes and-that while about the-rest
sentio tum de te etiam audio ex familiarissimis eius. Quibus
I-feel so about you also I-hear from most-intimate his To-whom
ego ex eo tempore, quo primum ex Africa nuntius venit,
I from that time when first from Africa the-news came
supplicare una cum fratribus tuis non destiti; quorum
to-supplicate together with brothers your not I-have-ceased whose
quidem et virtute et pietate et amor in te singularis et
indeed both virtue and devotion and love toward you singular and

adsidua et perpetua cura salutis tuae tantum proficit, ut
constant and perpetual care for-the-safety your so-much avails that
nihil sit, quod non ipsum Caesarem tributurum existimem.
nothing is which not himself Caesar going-to-grant I-think
3 Sed, si tardius fit quam volumus, magnis occupationibus
But if more-slowly it-happens than we-wish by-great occupations
eius, a quo omnia petuntur, aditus ad eum difficiliores
his from whom all-things are-sought approaches to him more-difficult
fuerunt, et simul Africanae causae iratior diutius
have-been and at-the-same-time with-the-African cause angrier longer
velle videtur eos habere sollicitos, a quibus se putat
to-wish he-seems those to-have anxious by whom himself he-thinks
diuturnioribus esse molestiis conflictatum. Sed hoc
with-longer to-have-been vexations embattled But this
ipsum intellegimus eum cotidie remissius et placatius
very we-understand him daily more-gently and more-placably
ferre. Qua re mihi crede et memoriae manda me tibi
to-bear By-which thing to-me believe and to-memory entrust me to-you
id adfirmasse, te in istis molestiis diutius non futurum.
that to-have-affirmed you in those vexations longer not going-to-be
4 Quoniam quid sentirem exposui, quid velim tua causa re
Since what I-felt I-have-set-out what I-wish for-your sake in-deed
potius declarabo quam oratione. Si tantum possem quantum in
rather I-will-declare than in-speech If so-much I-could as-much-as in
ea re p., de qua ita sum meritus ut tu existimas, posse
that thing public about which so I-have deserved as you think to-be-able
debebam, ne tu quidem in istis incommodis esses; eadem
I-ought not you even in those misfortunes would-be the-same
enim causa opes meas fregit quae tuam salutem in discrimen
for cause resources my broke which your safety into crisis
adduxit. Sed tamen, quicquid imago veteris meae dignitatis,
brought But still whatever the-image of-old my dignity

quicquid reliquiae gratiae valebunt, studium, consilium,
whatever the-remnants of-influence will-avail zeal counsel
opera, gratia, fides mea nullo loco deerit tuis optimis fratribus.
effort influence loyalty my in-no place will-fail your excellent brothers
Tu fac habeas fortem animum quem semper habuisti, 5
You see-that you-have a-brave spirit which always you-have-had
primum ob eas causas quas scripsi, deinde quod ea
first for those reasons which I-wrote then because those-things
de re p. semper voluisti atque sensisti, ut non
about the-thing public always you-wished and felt that not
modo nunc secunda sperare debeas sed etiam, si
only now favorable-things to-hope you-ought but even if
omnia adversa essent, tamen conscientia et factorum et
all-things adverse were still in-the-consciousness both of-deeds and
consiliorum tuorum, quaecumque acciderent, fortissimo et
of-counsels your whatever happened with-bravest and
maximo animo ferre deberes.
greatest spirit to-bear you-ought

VI.14 · BEFORE CAESAR

Cicero spends all his effort on Ligarius' safety, for his love of him and of his devoted brothers. Though by nature timid and always fearing the worst, he went to Caesar's house in the morning at the brothers' request, endured the indignity of waiting, and spoke while they lay at Caesar's feet; from Caesar's gentle words, his eyes, and his face, he came away certain of Ligarius' safety. He will go on supplicating Caesar and his friends.

Cicero Ligario.

Cicero to-Ligarius

1 Me scito omnem meum laborem, omnem operam, curam,
Me know all my labor all effort care
studium in tua salute consumere. Nam cum te semper
zeal on your safety to-spend For while you always
maxime dilexi, tum fratrum tuorum, quos aeque atque
most I-have-loved so of-brothers your whom equally as
te summa benevolentia sum complexus, singularis pietas
you with-highest goodwill I-have embraced the-singular devotion
amorque fraternus nullum me patitur offici erga te studique
and-love brotherly no me allows of-duty toward you and-of-zeal
munus aut tempus praetermittere. Sed quae faciam fecerimque
task or time to-pass-over But what I-do and-have-done
pro te, ex illorum te litteris quam ex meis malo cognoscere;
for you from their you letter than from mine I-prefer to-learn
quid autem sperem aut confidam et exploratum habeam de
what however I-hope or trust and ascertained hold about
salute tua, id tibi a me declarari volo. Nam si quisquam
safety your that to-you by me to-be-declared I-wish For if anyone
est timidus in magnis periculosisque rebus semperque magis
is timid in great and-dangerous matters and-always more
adversos rerum exitus metuens quam sperans secundos, is
adverse of-affairs outcomes fearing than hoping-for favorable he
ego sum et, si hoc vitiumst, eo me non carere confiteor.
I am and if this a-fault-is from-it me not to-be-free I-confess
2 Ego idem tamen cum a. d. v K. intercalaris
I the-same still when on-the day fifth before-the-Kalends intercalary
priores rogatu fratrum tuorum venissem mane ad
former at-the-request of-brothers your I-had-come in-the-morning to
Caesarem atque omnem adeundi et conveniendi illius
Caesar and all of-approaching and of-meeting him

indignitatem et molestiam pertulissem, cum fratres et
the-indignity and vexation had-endured when brothers and
propinqui tui iacerent ad pedes et ego essem locutus
relatives your lay at his-feet and I had spoken
quae causa, quae tuum tempus postulabat, non solum ex
what the-cause what your situation demanded not only from
oratione Caesaris, quae sane mollis et liberalis fuit, sed
the-speech of-Caesar which truly gentle and liberal was but
etiam ex oculis et vultu, ex multis praeterea signis, quae
also from the-eyes and face from many besides signs which
facilius perspicere potui quam scribere, hac opinione
more-easily to-perceive I-could than to-write with-this opinion
discessi ut mihi tua salus dubia non esset.
I-departed that to-me your safety doubtful not was
Quam ob rem fac animo magno fortique sis et, 3
Which on-account-of thing see-that of-mind great and-brave you-be and
si turbidissima sapienter ferebas, tranquilliora laete feras.
if most-turbulent-things wisely you-bore calmer-things joyfully you-bear
Ego tamen tuis rebus sic adero ut difficillimis
I still for-your affairs so will-be-present as for-the-most-difficult
neque Caesari solum sed etiam amicis eius omnibus,
nor to-Caesar only but also to-friends his all
quos mihi amicissimos esse cognovi, pro te, sicut adhuc
whom to-me most-friendly to-be I-have-learned for you as so-far
feci, libentissime supplicabo. Vale.
I-have-done most-gladly I-will-supplicate Farewell

VI.15 · TO BASILUS

A single line to Basilus: Cicero congratulates him, rejoices for himself, loves him, guards his interests, and wishes to be loved by him and told what he is doing and what is being done.

Cicero Basilo sal.

Cicero to-Basilus greeting

1 Tibi gratulor, mihi gaudeo; te amo, tua tueor; a
You I-congratulate for-myself I-rejoice you I-love your-interests I-guard by
te amari et quid agas quidque agatur certior
you to-be-loved and what you-are-doing and-what is-being-done informed
fieri volo.
to-be-made I-wish

VI.16 · BITHYNICUS WRITES

Bithynicus could found their friendship on their fathers', as men do who have not followed it up with services of their own; but he is content with their own friendship, and by its trust asks Cicero to protect him in his absence wherever need arises, if Cicero believes no service of his will die with Bithynicus.

Bithynicus Ciceroni s.

Bithynicus to-Cicero greeting

1 Si mihi tecum non et multae et iustae causae amicitiae
If to-me with-you not both many and just causes of-friendship
privatim essent, repeterem initia amicitiae ex parentibus
privately were I-would-fetch the-beginnings of-friendship from parents
nostris, quod faciendum iis existimo qui paternam
our which to-be-done for-those I-think who a-paternal
amicitiam nullis ipsi officiis prosecuti sunt. Itaque
friendship with-no themselves services followed-up have And-so

contentus ero nostra ipsorum amicitia; cuius fiducia
content I-shall-be with-our of-ourselves friendship of-which by-the-trust
peto a te, ut absentem me, quibuscumque in rebus
I-ask of you that absent me whatever in matters
opus fuerit, tueare, si nullum officium tuum apud me
need will-be you-protect if no service your with me
intermoriturum existimas. Vale.
going-to-die you-think Farewell

VI.17 · TO BITHYNICUS

Among other reasons for wishing the state settled, Cicero now longs for it because Bithynicus promises that he will then live with him. His goodwill is welcome and worthy of his father's judgment of Cicero; those who now prevail are bound to Bithynicus by great kindnesses, but no one is bound more closely to him by friendship than Cicero.

Cicero Bithynico.
Cicero to-Bithynicus
Cum ceterarum rerum causa cupio esse aliquando rem 1
As of-the-other things for-the-sake I-desire to-be sometime the-thing
p. constitutam tum velim mihi credas accedere, id etiam
public settled so I-would-wish to-me you-believe to-be-added this also
quo magis expetam, promissum tuum, quo in litteris uteris;
whereby more I-may-long-for promise your which in letter you-use
scribis enim, si ita sit, te mecum esse victurum. Gratissima 2
you-write for if so it-be you with-me to-be going-to-live Most-pleasing
mihi tua voluntas est facisque nihil alienum necessitudine
to-me your goodwill is and-you-do nothing foreign to-close-tie
nostra iudiciisque patris tui de me, summi viri. Nam
our and-to-the-judgments of-father your about me of-the-highest man For

sic habeto, beneficiorum magnitudine eos, qui temporibus
so hold by-greatness of-kindnesses those who in-the-times
valuerunt ut valeant, coniunctiores tecum esse quam me,
have-prevailed as they-prevail more-joined with-you to-be than me
necessitudine neminem. Quam ob rem grata mihi
by-close-tie no-one Which on-account-of thing pleasing to-me
est et memoria tua nostrae coniunctionis et eius etiam
is both memory your of-our union and its also
augendae voluntas.
to-be-increased the-wish

VI.18 · TO LEPTA

Balbus answers Lepta's question about the new law: those who practice as auctioneers' criers are barred from the town councils, those who once practiced are not, which is only fair when soothsayers sit in the senate at Rome. Pompey's son is said to have eleven legions in Spain, and Messalla reports that he killed Curtius for plotting to hand him to Caesar. Cicero will confer with Galba about Lepta's surety. He rejoices that Lepta admires his Orator; kept in Rome by Tullia's childbirth, he now waits for Dolabella's first payment, and enjoys his house and leisure; young Lepta should learn Hesiod's line on the sweat of virtue.

Cicero Leptae.
Cicero to-Lepta

1 Simul atque accepi a Seleuco tuo litteras, statim quaesivi
As-soon as I-received from Seleucus your a-letter at-once I-asked
e Balbo per codicillos quid esset in lege. Rescripsit eos,
of Balbus by tablets what was in the-law He-wrote-back those
qui facerent praeconium, vetari esse in decurionibus;
who practiced crying to-be-forbidden to-be among the-town-councilors
qui fecissent, non vetari. Qua re bono animo
who had-practiced not to-be-forbidden By-which thing of-good spirit

sint et tui et mei familiares; neque enim erat
let-them-be both your and my friends nor for was-it
ferendum, cum qui hodie haruspicinam facerent in
to-be-borne when those-who today soothsaying practiced into
senatum Romae legerentur, eos qui aliquando praeconium
the-senate at-Rome were-enrolled those who once crying
fecissent in municipiis decuriones esse non licere.
had-practiced in the-towns councilors to-be not to-be-allowed
De Hispaniis novi nihil. Magnum tamen exercitum Pompeium 2
About the-Spains new nothing Great still an-army Pompey
habere constat; nam Caesar ipse ad suos misit exemplum
to-have it-is-agreed for Caesar himself to his-people sent a-copy
Paciaeci litterarum, in quo erat illas xi esse legiones.
of-Paciaecus' letter in which it-was those eleven to-be legions
Scripserat etiam Messalla Q. Salasso P. Curtium,
Had-written also Messalla to-Quintus Salassus Publius Curtius
fratrem eius, iussu Pompei inspectante exercitu interfectum,
brother his by-order of-Pompey with-looking-on the-army killed
quod consensisset cum Hispanis quibusdam, si in oppidum
because he-had-conspired with Spaniards certain if into a-town
nescio quod Pompeius rei frumentariae causa
I-know-not what Pompey of-the-matter of-grain for-the-sake
venisset, eum comprehendere ad Caesaremque deducere.
had-come him to-seize to and-Caesar to-bring
De tuo negotio, quod sponsor es pro Pompeio, si 3
About your business because surety you-are for Pompey if
Galba, consponsor tuus, redierit, homo in re familiari
Galba co-surety your returns a-man in property domestic
non parum diligens, non desinam cum illo communicare,
not too-little diligent not I-will-cease with him to-confer
si quid expediri possit; quod videbatur mihi ille confidere.
if anything to-be-settled can which seemed to-me he to-trust

4 ‘Oratorem’ meum tanto opere a te probari vehementer
Orator my so greatly by you to-be-approved vehemently
gaudeo. Mihi quidem sic persuadeo me, quicquid habuerim
I-rejoice To-me indeed so I-persuade me whatever I-have-had
iudici de dicendo, in illum librum contulisse. Qui si est
of-judgment about speaking into that book to-have-put Which if it-is
talis qualem tibi videri scribis, ego quoque aliquid sum; sin
such as to-you to-seem you-write I also something am but-if
aliter, non recuso quin, quantum de illo libro, tantundem
otherwise not I-refuse that as-much-as from that book so-much
de mei iudici fama detrahatur. Leptam nostrum cupio
from of-my judgment the-reputation be-taken-away Lepta our I-desire
delectari iam talibus scriptis. Etsi abest maturitas aetatis,
to-be-delighted already by-such writings Although is-lacking ripeness of-age
tamen personare auris eius huius modi vocibus non est inutile.
still to-resound the-ears his of-this kind with-voices not is useless
5 Me Romae tenuit omnino Tulliae meae partus. Sed
Me at-Rome held altogether of-Tullia my the-childbirth But
cum ea, quem ad modum spero, satis firma sit, teneor
since she in-what to manner I-hope sufficiently strong is I-am-held
tamen, dum a Dolabellae procuratoribus exigam primam
still until from Dolabella's agents I-exact the-first
pensionem; et me hercule non tam sum peregrinator
payment and so-help-me Hercules not so I-am a-traveler
iam quam solebam. Aedificia mea me delectant et otium;
now as I-was-wont Buildings my me delight and leisure
domus est quae nulli mearum villarum cedat, otium omni
the-house is which to-none of-my villas yields leisure than-every
desertissima regione maius. Itaque ne litterae quidem meae
most-deserted region greater And-so not studies even my
impediuntur, in quibus sine ulla interpellatione versor.
are-hindered in which without any interruption I-am-engaged

Qua re, ut arbitror, prius hic te nos quam istic tu
By-which thing as I-think sooner here you we than there you
nos videbis. Lepta suavissimus ediscat Hesiodum et
us will-see Lepta most-sweet should-learn-by-heart Hesiod and
habeat in ore 'τῆς δ' ἀρετῆς ἱδρῶτα' et cetera.
have in mouth of-the but of-virtue the-sweat and the-rest

VI.19 · LODGING AND THE GAMES

Cicero is glad Macula has done his duty: his Falernian estate will serve as a lodging if there is room for Cicero's retinue, though he will not desert Lepta's Petrinum, a place to stay, not merely to lodge. He spoke with Oppius about a post supervising Caesar's games, since Balbus, with gout, sees no one; he advises Lepta to drop it, for Caesar's intimates are so many that a newcomer bringing only effort will get nothing. He will stay at Astura until Caesar comes.

Cicero Leptae.
Cicero to-Lepta
Maculam officio functum esse gaudeo. Eius Falernum mihi 1
Macula duty discharged to-have I-rejoice His Falernian-estate to-me
semper idoneum visum est devorsorio, si modo tecti satis est
always suitable seemed has for-a-lodging if only of-roof enough is
ad comitatum nostrum recipiendum. Ceteroqui mihi locus
for retinue our to-be-received Otherwise to-me the-place
non displicet. Nec ea re Petrinum tuum deseram; nam
not displeases Nor for-that reason Petrinum your will-I-desert for
et villa et amoenitas illa commorationis est, non devorsori.
both the-villa and the-pleasantness that of-a-stay is not of-a-lodging
De curatione aliqua munerum regiorum cum Oppio locutus 2
About a-supervision some of-games royal with Oppius spoken
sum; nam Balbum, postea quam tu es profectus, non
I-have for Balbus after that you have set-out not

vidi. Tantis pedum doloribus adficitur, ut se conveniri
I-have-seen With-such of-feet pains is-he-affected that himself to-be-met
nolit. Omnino de tota re, ut mihi videris,
he-does-not-wish Altogether about the-whole matter as to-me you-seem
sapientius faceres, si non curares. Quod enim eo
more-wisely you-would-act if not you-cared For what by-that
labore adsequi vis, nullo modo adsequere. Tanta est enim
labor to-attain you-wish in-no way will-you-attain So-great is for
intimorum multitudo, ut ex iis aliquis potius effluat
of-intimates the-multitude that of them someone rather would-slip-out
quam novo sit aditus, praesertim qui nihil adferat praeter
than to-a-new-man be approach especially who nothing brings except
operam, in qua ille se dedisse beneficium putabit (si modo
effort in which he himself to-have-given a-favor will-think if only
ipsum sciet), non accepisse. Sed tamen aliquid videbimus,
himself he-knows not to-have-received-it But still something we-shall-see
in quo sit species; aliter quidem non modo non adpetendum
in which be appearance otherwise indeed not only not to-be-sought
sed etiam fugiendum puto. Ego me Asturae diutius arbitror
but even to-be-shunned I-think I me at-Astura longer I-think
commoraturum, quoad ille quandoque veniat. Vale.
going-to-stay until he at-some-time comes Farewell

Cicero advises Toranius to stay where he is until he knows what to do: he avoids a long winter voyage and can leave at once on firm news, and need not expose himself to the arrivals. If Caesar comes he will be there; if not, he will learn everything. He has nothing to fear but the state's common misfortune, which at their age they should bear bravely, since it is no fault of theirs. His family is well and loves him.

Cicero Toranio s.

Cicero to-Toranius greeting

Dederam triduo ante pueris Cn. Planci litteras ad 1
I-had-given three-days before to-the-slaves of-Gnaeus Plancius a-letter to
te; eo nunc ero brevior teque, ut antea consolabar,
you by-that now I-shall-be shorter and-you as before I-consoled
hoc tempore monebo. Nihil puto tibi esse utilius
at-this time I-will-advise Nothing I-think for-you to-be more-useful
quam ibidem opperiri, quoad scire possis quid tibi
than in-the-same-place to-wait until to-know you-can what by-you
agendum sit. Nam praeter navigationis longae et hiemalis
to-be-done be For besides of-a-voyage long and wintry
et minime portuosae periculum quod vitaveris,
and least supplied-with-harbors the-danger which you-will-have-avoided
ne illud quidem non quantivis, subito, cum certi aliquid
not that even is-not of-any-price suddenly when certain something
audieris, te istim posse proficisci. Nihil est praeterea
you-have-heard you from-there to-be-able to-set-out Nothing is besides
cur adventibus te offerre gestias. Multa praeterea
why to-arrivals yourself to-expose you-should-be-eager Many-things besides
metuo, quae cum Cilone nostro communicavi.
I-fear which with Cilo our I-have-shared

2 Quid multa? loco opportuniore in his malis nullo esse
What many in-place more-opportune in these evils in-none to-be
potuisti, ex quo te quocumque opus erit facillime et
could-you from which you wherever need will-be most-easily and
expeditissime conferas. Quod si recipiet ille se ad tempus,
most-readily may-betake But if will-take he himself to the-time
aderis; sin (quoniam multa accidere possunt) aliqua
you-will-be-present but-if since many-things to-happen can some
res eum vel impediet vel morabitur, tu ibi eris ubi
thing him either will-hinder or will-delay you there will-be where
omnia scire possis. Hoc mihi prorsus valde placet.
all-things to-know you-can This to-me altogether greatly pleases

3 De reliquo, ut te saepe per litteras hortatus sum, ita
About the-rest as you often by letter exhorted I-have so
velim tibi persuadeas, te in hac causa nihil habere
I-would-wish yourself you-persuade you in this cause nothing to-have
quod tibi timendum sit praeter communem casum civitatis.
which by-you to-be-feared be except the-common misfortune of-the-state
Qui etsi est gravissimus, tamen ita viximus et id
Which although it-is most-grievous still so have-we-lived and that
aetatis iam sumus ut omnia, quae non nostra culpa nobis
of-age now we-are that all-things which not by-our fault to-us
accidant, fortiter ferre debeamus. Hic tui omnes valent
happen bravely to-bear we-ought Here yours all are-well
summaque pietate te desiderant et diligunt et colunt. Tu
and-with-highest devotion you miss and love and cultivate You
cura ut valeas et te istim ne temere commoveas.
take-care that you-be-well and yourself from-there not rashly you-move

As the war nears its end, Cicero recalls that in the whole army Toranius alone agreed with him and saw what evil it held, a war whose victory, with peace shut out, would bring destruction to the losers and slavery to the winners. The Domitii and Lentuli called him timid; then he feared, now he fears nothing, and death is the last of all things. It is a great consolation to have judged rightly, and he hopes they may yet compare their anxieties in some state. Toranius has nothing to fear but the ruin of the state.

Cicero Toranio.

Cicero to-Toranius

Etsi cum haec ad te scribebam, aut appropinquare 1

Although when these-things to you I-was-writing either to-be-approaching

exitus huius calamitosissimi belli aut iam aliquid actum

the-end of-this most-calamitous war or already something done

et confectum videbatur, tamen cotidie commemorabam te

and finished seemed still daily I-recalled you

unum in tanto exercitu mihi fuisse adsensorem et me

alone in so-great an-army to-me to-have-been an-agreer and me

tibi, solosque nos vidisse quantum esset in eo bello

to-you and-alone us to-have-seen how-much there-was in that war

mali, in quo spe pacis exclusa ipsa victoria futura

of-evil in which with-the-hope of-peace shut-out itself victory going-to-be

esset acerbissima, quae aut interitum adlatura esset, si

was most-bitter which either destruction going-to-bring was if

victus esses, aut, si vicisses, servitutem. Itaque ego,

conquered you-had-been or if you-had-conquered slavery And-so I

quem tum fortes illi viri et sapientes, Domitii et Lentuli,

whom then brave those men and wise the-Domitii and the-Lentuli

timidum esse dicebant (eram plane; timebam enim ne

timid to-be said I-was plainly I-feared for lest

evenirent ea quae acciderunt), idem nunc nihil timeo
should-happen those-things which have-happened the-same now nothing I-fear
et ad omnem eventum paratus sum. Cum aliquid videbatur
and for every outcome ready I-am When something seemed
caveri posse, tum id neglegi dolebam; nunc
to-be-guarded-against to-be-able then that to-be-neglected I-grieved now
vero eversis omnibus rebus, cum consilio profici nihil
indeed with-overturned all things since by-counsel to-be-achieved nothing
possit, una ratio videtur, quicquid evenerit, ferre moderate,
can one course seems whatever happens to-bear moderately
praesertim cum omnium rerum mors sit extremum et mihi
especially since of-all things death is the-last and to-me
sim conscius me, quoad licuerit, dignitati rei p.
I-am conscious me as-far-as it-was-allowed for-the-dignity of-the-thing public
consuluisse et hac amissa salutem retinere voluisse.
to-have-consulted and with-this lost safety to-retain to-have-wished

2 Haec scripsi, non ut de me ipse dicerem, sed ut tu,
These-things I-wrote not that about me myself I-might-speak but that you
qui coniunctissima fuisti mecum et sententia et voluntate,
who most-closely-joined were with-me both in-opinion and in-wish
eadem cogitares. Magna enim consolatio est cum
the-same-things might-think Great for consolation it-is when
recordare, etiamsi secus acciderit, te tamen recte vereque
you-recall even-if otherwise it-has-turned-out you still rightly and-truly
sensisse. Atque utinam liceat aliquando aliquo rei
to-have-felt And would-that it-be-allowed sometime in-some of-the-thing
p. statu nos frui inter nosque conferre sollicitudines
public state us to-enjoy and-among ourselves to-compare anxieties
nostras, quas pertulimus tum cum timidi putabamur, quia
our which we-endured then when timid we-were-thought because
dicebamus ea futura quae facta sunt.
we-said those-things going-to-be which done have-been

De tuis rebus nihil esse quod timeas praeter universae 3
About your affairs nothing to-be which you-should-fear except of-the-whole
rei p. interitum tibi confirmo; de me autem sic velim
thing public the-destruction to-you I-affirm about me however so I-would-wish
iudices, quantum ego possim, me tibi, saluti tuae liberisque
you-judge as-much-as I can me to-you to-safety your and-to-children
tuis summo cum studio praesto semper futurum. Vale.
your highest with zeal at-hand always going-to-be Farewell

VI.22 · TO DOMITIUS

Cicero has not written since Domitius came to Italy, not because Domitius had not, but because he had nothing to promise, advise, or console with; things are now more desperate, but an empty letter is better than none. Since Domitius has ended his struggle where fortune set the limit, Cicero begs him, by their old union, to keep himself safe for his parent, wife, and family, use what the wisest men taught him, and bear bravely the loss of friends. He has told Domitius' mother of his goodwill.

Cicero Domitio.
Cicero to-Domitius
Non ea res me deterruit quo minus, postea quam in 1
Not that thing me deterred whereby less after that into
Italiam venisti, litteras ad te mitterem, quod tu ad me
Italy you-came a-letter to you I-should-send that you to me
nullas miseras, sed quia nec quid tibi pollicerer ipse
none had-sent but because neither what to-you I-might-promise myself
egens rebus omnibus nec quid suaderem, cum mihimet
lacking in-things all nor what I-might-advise since to-me
ipsi consilium desset, nec quid consolationis adferrem in
myself counsel was-lacking nor what of-consolation I-might-bring in

tantis malis reperiebam. Haec quamquam nihilo meliora
so-great evils did-I-find These-things although by-nothing better
sunt nunc etiam atque etiam multo desperatiora, tamen
are now even and even much more-desperate still
inanis esse meas litteras quam nullas malui.
empty to-be my letter than none I-preferred

2 Ego si te intellegerem plus conatum esse suscipere rei
I if you I-understood more attempted to-have to-undertake of-the-thing
p. causa muneris quam quantum praestare potuisses,
public for-the-sake of-task than as-much-as to-perform you-could-have
tamen, quibuscumque rebus possem, ad eam condicionem te
still by-whatever means I-could to that condition you
vivendi, quae daretur quaeque esset, hortarer; sed cum consili
of-living which was-given and-which existed I-would-exhort but since of-counsel
tui bene fortiterque suscepti eum tibi finem statueris
your well and-bravely undertaken that for-you end you-have-fixed
quem ipsa fortuna terminum nostrarum contentionum esse
which itself fortune the-limit of-our contests to-be
voluisset, oro obtestorque te pro vetere nostra coniunctione
wished I-beg and-adjure you for old our union
ac necessitudine proque summa mea in te benevolentia et
and close-tie and-for highest my toward you goodwill and
tua in me pari, te ut nobis, parenti, coniugi tuisque
your toward me equal you that for-us for-your-parent for-your-wife and-to-yours
omnibus, quibus es fuistique semper carissimus, salvum
all to-whom you-are and-have-been always most-dear safe
conserves, incolumitati tuae tuorumque, qui ex te pendent,
you-preserve for-the-safety your and-of-yours who from you hang
consulas, quae didicisti quaeque ab adulescentia
you-consult what-things you-have-learned and-which from youth
pulcherrime a sapientissimis viris tradita memoria et
most-beautifully by most-wise men handed-down by-memory and

scientia comprehendisti, iis hoc tempore utare, quos
knowledge you-have-grasped those at-this time you-use those-whom
coniunctos summa benevolentia plurimisque officiis amisisti,
joined by-highest goodwill and-very-many services you-have-lost
eorum desiderium, si non aequo animo, at forti feras.
of-them the-longing if not with-even mind but with-brave you-bear
Ego quid possim nescio vel potius me parum posse 3
I what I-can know-not or rather me too-little to-be-able
sentio; illud tamen tibi polliceor, me, quaecumque saluti
I-feel this still to-you I-promise me whatever-things to-safety
dignitatique tuae conducere arbitrabor, tanto studio esse
and-dignity your to-conduce I-shall-think with-so-much zeal to-be
facturum, quanto semper tu et studio et officio in
going-to-do with-as-much-as always you both with-zeal and with-duty in
meis rebus fuisti. Hanc meam voluntatem ad matrem tuam,
my affairs were This my goodwill to mother your
optimam feminam tuique amantissimam, detuli. Si quid
an-excellent woman and-of-you most-loving I-have-conveyed If anything
ad me scripseris, ita faciam, ut te velle intellexero; sin
to me you-write so I-will-do as you to-wish I-understand but-if
autem tu minus scripseris, ego tamen omnia quae tibi utilia
however you less write I still all-things which to-you useful
esse arbitrabor summo studio diligenterque curabo. Vale.
to-be I-shall-think with-highest zeal and-diligently will-attend-to Farewell

BOOK VII

VII.1 · THE GAMES OF POMPEY

Cicero praises Marius for staying at his Stabian villa, reading in the mornings, while others watched the games at Pompey's theater. They were lavish but joyless: old actors returned, Aesopus' voice failed at the oath, six hundred mules in the Clytaemestra and three thousand bowls in the Trojan Horse. There were hunts on five days, but what pleasure is a man mangled or a beast speared, and the elephants roused only pity, as if they shared something with mankind. Cicero, worn out defending men who have not deserved well of him, longs to live as Marius does.

M. Cicero s. d. M. Mario.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Marcus Marius

Si te dolor aliqui corporis aut infirmitas valetudinis tuae 1

If you a-pain some of-body or weakness of-health your

tenuit quo minus ad ludos venires, fortunae magis tribuo

held whereby less to the-games you-came to-fortune more I-attribute

quam sapientiae tuae; sin haec, quae ceteri mirantur,

than to-wisdom your but-if these-things which others admire

contemnenda duxisti et, cum per valetudinem posses,

to-be-despised you-have-thought and although through health you-could

venire tamen noluisti, utrumque laetor, et sine dolore

to-come still you-did-not-wish both I-rejoice both without pain

corporis te fuisse et animo valuisse, cum ea,

of-body you to-have-been and in-mind to-have-been-well since those-things

quae sine causa mirantur alii, neglexeris, modo ut tibi

which without cause admire others you-have-neglected only that to-you

constiterit fructus oti tui; quo quidem tibi perfrui

have-stood-firm the-fruit of-leisure your which indeed for-you to-enjoy-fully

mirifice licuit, cum esses in ista amoenitate paene

wonderfully it-has-been-allowed since you-were in that pleasantness almost

solus relictus. Neque tamen dubito quin tu in illo cubiculo
alone left Nor still do-I-doubt that you in that bedroom
tuo, ex quo tibi Stabianum perforasti et patefecisti
your from which for-yourself the-Stabian you-have-opened-up and laid-open
sinum, per eos dies matutina tempora lectiunculis
the-bay through those days the-morning hours in-little-readings
consumpseris, cum illi interea, qui te istic reliquerunt,
you-spent while they meanwhile who you there left
spectarent communis mimos semisomni. Reliquas vero partis
watched common mimes half-asleep The-remaining indeed parts
diei tu consumebas iis delectationibus, quas tibi
of-the-day you were-spending in-those delights which for-yourself
ipse ad arbitrium tuum compararas; nobis autem
yourself according-to judgment your you-had-procured we however
erant ea perpetienda, quae Sp. Maecius probavisset.
had those-things to-be-endured which Spurius Maecius had-approved
2 Omnino, si quaeris, ludi apparatissimi, sed non tui
Altogether if you-ask the-games most-lavish but not of-your
stomachi; coniecturam enim facio de meo. Nam primum
stomach a-conjecture for I-make from mine For first
honoris causa in scaenam redierant ii, quos ego honoris
of-honor for-the-sake to the-stage had-returned those whom I of-honor
causa de scaena decessisse arbitrabar. Deliciae vero
for-the-sake from the-stage to-have-withdrawn thought The-darling indeed
tuae, noster Aesopus, eius modi fuit ut ei desinere
your our Aesopus of-that kind was that for-him to-stop
per omnis homines liceret. Is iurare cum coepisset,
by all men it-would-be-allowed He to-swear when he-had-begun
vox eum defecit in illo loco: 'Si sciens fallo.' Quid tibi
voice him failed at that place If knowingly I-deceive Why to-you
ego alia narrem? nosti enim reliquos ludos; qui
I other-things should-I-tell you-know for the-remaining games which

ne id quidem leporis habuerunt, quod solent mediocres
not that even of-charm had which are-wont ordinary
ludi. Apparatus enim spectatio tollebat omnem hilaritatem,
games The-lavishness for the-spectacle removed all cheerfulness
quo quidem apparatu non dubito quin animo aequissimo
which indeed lavishness not I-doubt that with-mind most-even
carueris. Quid enim delectationis habent sescenti
you-have-done-without What for of-delight have six-hundred
muli in 'Clytaemestra' aut in 'Equo Troiano' creterrarum
mules in the-Clytaemestra or in the-Horse Trojan of-mixing-bowls
tria milia aut armatura varia peditatus et equitatus in
three thousand or the-armor various of-infantry and of-cavalry in
aliqua pugna? quae popularem admirationem habuerunt,
some battle which popular admiration had
delectationem tibi nullam attulissent.
delight to-you none would-have-brought
Quod si tu per eos dies operam dedisti Protogeni tuo, 3
But if you during those days attention gave to-Protogenes your
dum modo is tibi quidvis potius quam orationes meas
provided only he to-you anything rather than speeches my
legerit, ne tu haud paulo plus quam quisquam nostrum
read truly you not a-little more than anyone of-us
delectationis habuisti. Non enim te puto Graecos aut Oscos
of-delight have-had Not for you I-think Greek or Oscan
ludos desiderasse, praesertim cum Oscos vel in senatu vestro
games to-have-missed especially since Oscan even in senate your
spectare possis, Graecos ita non ames ut ne ad villam
to-watch you-can Greek so not you-love that not to villa
quidem tuam via Graeca ire soleas. Nam quid ego te
even your by-the-road Greek to-go you-are-wont For why I you
athletas putem desiderare, qui gladiatores contempseris? in
athletes should-think to-miss who the-gladiators despised in

quibus ipse Pompeius confitetur se et operam et oleum
which himself Pompey confesses himself both effort and oil
perdidisse. Reliquae sunt venationes binae per dies quinque,
to-have-lost Remaining are hunts two during days five
magnificae, nemo negat; sed quae potest homini esse polito
magnificent no-one denies but what can to-a-man to-be cultivated
delectatio, cum aut homo imbecillus a valentissima bestia
delight when either a-man weak by a-most-powerful beast
laniatur aut praeclara bestia venabulo transverberatur? Quae
is-mangled or a-splendid beast by-a-hunting-spear is-pierced-through Which
tamen, si videnda sunt, saepe vidisti; neque nos, qui haec
still if to-be-seen they-are often you-have-seen nor we who these-things
spectamus, quicquam novi vidimus. Extremus elephantorum
watch anything new have-seen The-last of-the-elephants
dies fuit. In quo admiratio magna vulgi atque
the-day was In which admiration great of-the-common-people and
turbae, delectatio nulla exstitit; quin etiam misericordia
of-the-crowd delight none arose nay even pity
quaedam consecuta est atque opinio eius modi, esse
a-certain followed has and an-opinion of-that kind to-be
quandam illi beluae cum genere humano societatem.
some for-that beast with the-race human fellowship

4 His ego tamen diebus ludis scaenicis, ne forte videar
On-these I still days at-the-games theatrical lest perhaps I-seem
tibi non modo beatus sed liber omnino fuisse, dirupi
to-you not only happy but free altogether to-have-been I-burst
me paene in iudicio Galli Canini, familiaris tui. Quod
myself almost in the-trial of-Gallus Caninius friend your But
si tam facilem populum haberem quam Aesopus habuit,
if so easy a-people I-had as Aesopus had
libenter me hercule artem desinerem tecumque et cum
gladly so-help-me Hercules the-art I-would-stop and-with-you and with

similibus nostri viverem. Nam me cum antea taedebat, cum
like-men of-us I-would-live For me when before it-wearied when
et aetas et ambitio me hortabatur, et licebat denique,
both age and ambition me exhorted and it-was-allowed finally
quem nolebam, non defendere, tum vero hoc tempore
whom I-wished-not not to-defend then indeed at-this time
vita nulla est. Neque enim fructum ullum laboris exspecto
life none is Nor for fruit any of-labor do-I-expect
et cogor non numquam homines non optime de me
and I-am-compelled not never men not best of me
meritos rogatu eorum, qui bene meriti sunt, defendere.
deserving at-the-request of-those who well deserved have to-defend
Itaque quaero causas omnis aliquando vivendi arbitratu meo 5
And-so I-seek reasons all sometime of-living by-judgment my
teque et istam rationem oti tui et laudo vehementer
and-you and that plan of-leisure your both I-praise vehemently
et probo, quodque nos minus intervisis, hoc fero animo
and approve and-that us less you-visit this I-bear with-mind
aequiore, quod, si Romae esses, tamen neque nos lepore
more-even because if at-Rome you-were still neither us charm
tuo neque te, si qui est in me, meo frui liceret
your nor you if any is in me my to-enjoy it-would-be-allowed
propter molestissimas occupationes meas. Quibus si me
on-account-of most-vexatious occupations my From-which if myself
relaxaro (nam, ut plane exsolvam, non postulo), te ipsum,
I-relax for that completely I-free not I-demand you yourself
qui multos annos nihil aliud commentaris, docebo profecto
who many years nothing else meditate I-will-teach surely
quid sit humaniter vivere. Tu modo istam imbecillitatem
what is humanely to-live You only that weakness

valetudinis tuae sustenta et tuere, ut facis, ut nostras villas
of-health your support and protect as you-do that our villas
obire et mecum simul lecticula concursare possis.
to-visit and with-me together in-a-little-litter to-run-about you-may-be-able
6 Haec ad te pluribus verbis scripsi quam soleo,
These-things to you in-more words I-wrote than I-am-wont
non oti abundantia sed amoris erga te, quod me
not of-leisure from-abundance but of-love toward you because me
quadam epistula subinvitaras, si memoria tenes, ut ad te
in-a-certain letter you-had-half-invited if in-memory you-hold that to you
aliquid eius modi scriberem, quo minus te praetermisisse
something of-that kind I-should-write whereby less you to-have-missed
ludos paeniteret. Quod si adsecutus sum, gaudeo; sin
the-games should-repent But if attained-it I-have I-rejoice but-if
minus, hoc me tamen consolor, quod posthac ad ludos
less with-this me still I-console that hereafter to the-games
venies nosque vises neque in epistulis relinques meis
you-will-come and-us will-visit nor in letters will-leave my
spem aliquam delectationis tuae.
hope some of-delight your

VII.2 · BURSA CONVICTED

Cicero will attend carefully to Marius' commission, joking that Marius chose an agent who profits by a high price, but wisely fixed a limit; now that Cicero knows it, he will put up a sham bidder rather than let the property sell for less. Marius congratulates him too shyly on the conviction of Bursa: Cicero rejoices more in the verdict than he would in an enemy's death, more in a friend's glory, and most in the zeal of the good against a most powerful man. He hated this little ape, who chose him to attack, more than Clodius. Rome is so busy with trials and new laws that he prays there will be no intercalary month.

M. Cicero s. d. M. Mario.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Marcus Marius

Mandatum tuum curabo diligenter. Sed homo acutus ei 1

The-commission your I-will-attend-to carefully But a-man shrewd to-him

mandasti potissimum, cui expediret illud venire

you-entrusted-it above-all for-whom it-was-advantageous that to-be-sold

quam plurimo. Sed eo vidisti multum, quod praefinisti

as at-the-highest But in-this you-saw much that you-fixed-beforehand

quo ne pluris emerem. Quod si mihi permisisses, qui

than-which lest at-more I-should-buy But if to-me you-had-left-it such-as

meus amor in te est, confecissem cum coheredibus;

my love toward you is I-would-have-settled-it with the-co-heirs

nunc, quoniam tuum pretium novi, inlicitatorem potius

now since your price I-know a-sham-bidder rather

ponam quam illud minoris veneat. Sed de ioco satis

I-will-put-up than that for-less be-sold But about joking enough

est. Tuum negotium agam, sicuti debeo, diligenter.

it-is Your business I-will-do just-as I-ought carefully

De Bursa te gaudere certo scio; sed nimis verecunde mihi 2

About Bursa you to-rejoice certainly I-know but too modestly me

gratularis; putas enim, ut scribis, propter hominis sordis

you-congratulate you-think for as you-write because-of of-the-man the-meanness

minus me magnam illam laetitiam putare. Credas

less me great that joy to-think You-should-believe

mihi velim magis me iudicio hoc quam morte

me I-would-wish more me at-verdict this than at-the-death

inimici laetatum. Primum enim iudicio malo quam

of-an-enemy to-have-rejoiced First for by-verdict I-prefer than

gladio, deinde gloria potius amici quam calamitate; in

by-sword next by-the-glory rather of-a-friend than by-the-disaster among

primisque me delectavit tantum studium bonorum in me

and-the-first me has-delighted so-great the-zeal of-the-good toward me

exstitisse contra incredibilem contentionem clarissimi
to-have-appeared against the-incredible effort of-a-most-famous
et potentissimi viri;
and most-powerful man
3 postremo (vix veri simile fortasse videatur) oderam
finally scarcely to-truth like perhaps it-may-seem I-hated
multo peius hunc quam illum ipsum Clodium. Illum
much worse this-one than that very Clodius That-one
enim oppugnaram, hunc defenderam; et ille, cum omnis
for I-had-attacked this-one I-had-defended and that-one when all-the
res p. in meo capite discrimen esset habitura, magnum
thing public on my head a-crisis was going-to-have great
quiddam spectavit, nec sua sponte sed eorum auxilio,
something aimed-at nor of-his-own accord but of-those by-the-help
qui me stante stare non poterant, hic simiolus animi
who me standing to-stand not could this little-ape of-amusement
causa me in quem inveheretur delegerat persuaseratque
for-the-sake me against whom he-might-inveigh had-chosen and-had-persuaded
non nullis invidis meis se in me emissarium semper
not none envious-ones my himself against me an-emissary always
fore. Quam ob rem valde iubeo gaudere te. Magna
going-to-be Which on-account-of thing greatly I-bid to-rejoice you Great
res gesta est. Numquam ulli fortiores cives fuerunt quam
a-thing done has-been Never any braver citizens have-been than
qui ausi sunt eum contra tantas opes eius, a quo ipsi
who dared have him against such-great resources of-him by whom themselves
lecti iudices erant, condemnare; quod fecissent
chosen judges they-had-been to-condemn which they-would-have-done
numquam, nisi iis dolori meus fuisset dolor.
never unless to-them for-a-pain my had-been pain

Nos hic in multitudine et celebritate iudiciorum et 4
We here in the-multitude and crowding of-trials and
novis legibus ita distinemur ut cotidie vota faciamus ne
by-new laws so are-kept-busy that daily vows we-make lest
intercaletur, ut quam primum te videre possimus.
it-be-intercalated so-that as first you to-see we-may-be-able

VII.3 · WHY HE CAME HOME

Cicero recalls the day at his Pompeian villa when Marius was anxious for Cicero's duty and danger, and Cicero chose to follow shame rather than safety. He regretted it: the forces were few and unwarlike, the leaders rapacious and cruel in speech, and nothing was good but the cause. He urged peace, then delay, but Pompey trusted his raw troops and fled after a shameful defeat. Cicero made that the end of his war, preferring exile at home to death, Juba, or the victor's hands. He has learning and glory to sustain him, and wishes his critics had listened.

M. Cicero s. d. M. Mario.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Marcus Marius
Persaepe mihi cogitanti de communibus miseriis, in quibus 1
Very-often to-me thinking about the-common miseries in which
tot annos versamur et, ut video, versabimur, solet
so-many years we-are-turned and as I-see we-shall-be-turned it-is-wont
in mentem venire illius temporis, quo proxime fuimus
into mind to-come of-that time in-which last we-were
una; quin etiam ipsum diem memoria teneo; nam a. d.
together nay even the-very day in-memory I-hold for on-the day
iiii Id. Mai. Lentulo et Marcello coss., cum in
fourth before-the-Ides of-May Lentulus and Marcellus being-consuls when into
Pompeianum vesperi venissem, tu mihi sollicito animo
my-Pompeian-villa in-the-evening I-had-come you to-me in-anxious mind

praesto fuisti. Sollicitum autem te habebat cogitatio cum
at-hand were Anxious however you held the-thought both
offici tum etiam periculi mei. Si manerem in Italia, verebare
of-duty and also of-danger my If I-stayed in Italy you-feared
ne officio dessem; si proficiscerer ad bellum, periculum
lest in-duty I-should-fail if I-set-out to the-war the-danger
te meum commovebat. Quo tempore vidisti profecto me
you my disturbed At-which time you-saw surely me
quoque ita conturbatum ut non explicarem quid esset
also so confused that not I-could-unravel what was
optimum factu. Pudori tamen malui famaeque cedere
best to-be-done To-shame still I-preferred and-to-reputation to-yield
quam salutis meae rationem ducere.
than of-safety my account to-take

2 Cuius me mei facti paenituit non tam propter periculum
Of-which me my of-deed it-repented not so-much because-of danger
meum quam propter vitia multa, quae ibi offendi quo
my as because-of faults many which there I-encountered where
veneram, primum neque magnas copias neque bellicosas; deinde
I-had-come first neither great forces nor warlike next
extra ducem paucosque praeterea (de principibus loquor) reliqui
outside the-leader and-a-few besides of the-chiefs I-speak the-rest
primum in ipso bello rapaces, deinde in oratione ita crudeles
first in the-very war rapacious then in speech so cruel
ut ipsam victoriam horrerem; maximum autem aes alienum
that the-very victory I-dreaded the-greatest however money borrowed
amplissimorum virorum. Quid quaeris? nihil boni praeter
of-most-distinguished men What do-you-ask nothing of-good except
causam. Quae cum vidissem, desperans victoriam primum
the-cause Which when I-had-seen despairing of-victory first
coepi suadere pacem, cuius fueram semper auctor; deinde,
I-began to-urge peace of-which I-had-been always the-advocate then

cum ab ea sententia Pompeius valde abhorreret, suadere
when from that opinion Pompey greatly shrank to-urge
institui ut bellum duceret. Hoc interdum probabat et in
I-began that the-war he-should-draw-out This at-times he-approved and in
ea sententia videbatur fore et fuisset fortasse, nisi
that opinion he-seemed going-to-be and he-would-have-been perhaps unless
quadam ex pugna coepisset suis militibus confidere. Ex
a-certain from battle he-had-begun his-own soldiers to-trust From
eo tempore vir ille summus nullus imperator fuit. Signa
that time man that supreme no general was Standards
tirone et collecticio exercitu cum legionibus robustissimis
with-a-recruit and scraped-together army with legions most-robust
contulit; victus turpissime amissis etiam castris solus fugit.
he-joined defeated most-shamefully lost even the-camp alone he-fled
Hunc ego mihi belli finem feci nec putavi, cum integri 3
This I for-myself of-the-war end made nor did-I-think when intact
pares non fuissemus, fractos superiores fore; discessi ab
equal not we-had-been broken superior going-to-be I-withdrew from
eo bello, in quo aut in acie cadendum fuit aut in
that war in which either in battle-line to-be-fallen it-was or into
aliquas insidias incidendum aut deveniendum in victoris
some ambush to-be-fallen-into or to-be-come into the-victor's
manus aut ad Iubam confugiendum aut capiendus tamquam
hands or to Juba to-be-fled or to-be-taken as-if
exsilio locus aut consciscenda mors voluntaria. Certe nihil
for-exile a-place or to-be-inflicted death voluntary Certainly nothing
fuit praeterea, si te victori nolles aut non
there-was besides if yourself to-the-victor you-were-unwilling or not
auderes committere. Ex omnibus autem iis quae dixi
you-dared to-entrust Of all however those which I-have-named
incommodis nihil tolerabilius exsilio, praesertim innocenti,
troubles nothing more-bearable than-exile especially for-the-innocent

ubi nulla adiuncta est turpitudo; addo etiam, cum ea urbe
where no attached is disgrace I-add also when that city
careas in qua nihil sit quod videre possis sine dolore. Ego
you-lack in which nothing there-is which to-see you-can without pain I
cum meis, si quicquam nunc cuiusquam est, etiam in
with my-own-people if anything now of-anyone is even among
meis esse malui. Quae acciderunt, omnia dixi futura.
my-own to-be I-preferred What-things have-happened all I-said would-happen
4 Veni domum, non quo optima vivendi condicio esset, sed
I-came home not because the-best of-living condition was but
tamen, si esset aliqua forma rei p., tamquam in
still if there-was some form of-the-thing public as-if in
patria ut essem, si nulla, tamquam in exsilio. Mortem
my-country that I-might-be if none as-if in exile Death
mihi cur consciscerem causa non visa est, cur optarem
for-myself why I-should-inflict a-cause not seemed has why I-should-wish-it
multae causae. Vetus est enim, ubi non sis qui fueris,
many causes Old it-is for when not you-are who you-have-been
non esse cur velis vivere. Sed tamen vacare culpa
not to-be why you-should-wish to-live But still to-be-free from-blame
magnum est solacium, praesertim cum habeam duas res
a-great is comfort especially since I-have two things
quibus me sustentem, optimarum artium scientiam et
by-which myself I-may-sustain of-the-best arts the-knowledge and
maximarum rerum gloriam; quarum altera mihi vivo
of-the-greatest deeds the-glory of-which the-one from-me living
numquam eripietur, altera ne mortuo quidem.
never will-be-snatched the-other not from-me-dead even
5 Haec ad te scripsi verbosius et tibi molestus
These-things to you I-have-written more-wordily and to-you troublesome
fui, quod te cum mei tum rei p. cognovi
I-have-been because you both of-me and of-the-thing public I-have-known

amantissimum. Notum tibi omne meum consilium esse
most-loving Known to-you all my plan to-be
volui, ut primum scires me numquam voluisse
I-wished that first you-might-know me never to-have-wished
plus quemquam posse quam universam rem p., postea
more anyone to-be-able than the-whole thing public afterward
autem quam alicuius culpa tantum valeret unus ut
however when by-someone's fault so-much was-strong one-man that
obsisti non posset, me voluisse pacem; amisso exercitu
to-be-resisted not it-could me to-have-wished peace lost the-army
et eo duce, in quo spes fuerat uno, me voluisse
and that leader in whom the-hope had-been alone me to-have-wished
etiam reliquis omnibus, postquam non potuerim, mihi
also for-the-remaining all after not I-could for-me
ipsi finem fecisse belli; nunc autem si haec civitas est,
myself an-end to-have-made of-war now however if this a-state is
civem esse me, si non, exsulem esse non incommodiore
a-citizen to-be me if not an-exile to-be not in-a-less-convenient
loco quam si Rhodum aut Mytilenas me contulissem.
place than if to-Rhodes or Mytilene myself I-had-betaken
Haec tecum coram malueram; sed quia longius 6
These-things with-you face-to-face I-had-preferred but since longer
fiebat, volui per litteras eadem, ut haberes quid
it-was-becoming I-wished by letter the-same that you-should-have what
diceres, si quando in vituperatores meos incidisses. Sunt
you-might-say if ever on critics my you-had-chanced There-are
enim qui, cum meus interitus nihil fuerit rei
for who although my death nothing would-have-been to-the-thing
p. profuturus, criminis loco putent esse quod vivam;
public going-to-profit of-a-charge in-the-place think it-to-be that I-live
quibus ego certo scio non videri satis multos perisse.
to-whom I certainly know not to-seem enough many to-have-perished

Qui si me audissent, quamvis iniqua pace, honeste tamen
Who if me they-had-heard however unfair a-peace honorably still
viverent; armis enim inferiores, non causa fuissent.
they-would-be-living in-arms for inferior not in-cause they-would-have-been
Habes epistulam verbosiorem fortasse quam velles; quod
You-have a-letter more-wordy perhaps than you-would-wish which
tibi ita videri putabo, nisi mihi longiorem remiseris. Ego
to-you so to-seem I-shall-think unless to-me a-longer you-send-back I
si quae volo expediero, brevi tempore te, ut spero, videbo.
if what I-want I-shall-have-settled in-brief time you as I-hope I-shall-see

VII.4 · AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOUT

Cicero has come to his Cuman villa with Libo and will go on to Pompeii, but will let Marius know first. He wants Marius well, especially while they are near each other, and asks him to put off any appointment he has with his gout; he should expect Cicero in two or three days.

M. Cicero s. d. M. Mario.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Marcus Marius
1 A. d. xiiii K. in Cumanum veni cum
On-the day fourteenth before-the-Kalends into my-Cuman-villa I-came with
Libone tuo vel nostro potius; in Pompeianum statim cogito,
Libo your or our rather into my-Pompeian-villa at-once I-intend
sed faciam ante te certiorem. Te cum semper valere
but I-shall-make first you more-certain You both always to-be-well
cupio tum certe, dum hic sumus; vides enim quanto
I-desire and certainly while here we-are you-see for by-how-much
post una futuri simus. Qua re, si quod constitutum
after together going-to-be we-are By-which thing if any appointment

cum podagra habes, fac ut in alium diem differas. Cura
with gout you-have see that to another day you-put-it-off Take-care
igitur ut valeas, et me hoc biduo aut triduo exspecta.
therefore that you-are-well and me in-this two-days or three-days expect

VII.5 · TREBATIUS TO CAESAR

Cicero had meant to take Gaius Trebatius with him wherever he went and bring him home honored, but Pompey's delay and his own hesitation kept him in Italy, so he asked Caesar to do for Trebatius what he would have done. By a wonderful chance Caesar's letter arrived while he spoke with Balbus: Caesar would make the man he commended king of Gaul, or send him to Lepta, and asked for another. So Cicero sends Trebatius, a jurist of singular memory and knowledge, asking no tribunate or prefecture but Caesar's goodwill, and hands him over from hand to hand.

Cicero Caesari imp. s. d.
Cicero to-Caesar general greeting says
Vide quam mihi persuaserim te me esse alterum non 1
See how myself I-have-persuaded you me to-be a-second not
modo in iis rebus, quae ad me ipsum, sed etiam in
only in those things which to me myself but also in
iis, quae ad meos pertinent. C. Trebatium cogitaram,
those which to my-own-people pertain Gaius Trebatius I-had-intended
quocumque exirem, mecum ducere, ut eum meis omnibus
wherever I-went-out with-me to-take that him with-my all
studiis, beneficiis quam ornatissimum domum reducerem;
efforts favors as most-honored home I-might-bring-back
sed, postea quam et Pompei commoratio diuturnior erat
but afterward when both of-Pompey the-delay longer was
quam putaram, et mea quaedam tibi non ignota dubitatio
than I-had-thought and my certain to-you not unknown hesitation

aut impedire profectionem meam videbatur aut certe
either to-hinder departure my seemed or certainly
tardare (vide quid mihi sumpserim), coepi velle ea
to-delay see what for-myself I-have-assumed I-began to-want those-things
Trebatium exspectare a te, quae sperasset a me, neque
Trebatius to-expect from you which he-had-hoped from me nor
me hercule minus ei prolixe de tua voluntate
so-help-me Hercules less to-him lavishly about your goodwill
promisi quam eram solitus de mea polliceri.
I-promised than I-was accustomed about my-own to-promise

2 Casus vero mirificus quidam intervenit quasi vel testis
A-chance indeed wonderful certain intervened as-if either a-witness
opinionis meae vel sponsor humanitatis tuae. Nam cum de
of-opinion my or a-guarantor of-kindness your For when about
hoc ipso Trebatio cum Balbo nostro loquerer accuratius
this very Trebatius with Balbus our I-was-speaking more-carefully
domi meae, litterae mihi dantur a te, quibus in extremis
at-home my a-letter to-me is-given from you of-which at the-end
scriptum erat: 'M. itfiuium, quem mihi commendas, vel
written was Marcus Itfiuius whom to-me you-commend either
regem Galliae faciam, vel hunc Leptae delega, si vis.
king of-Gaul I-will-make or this-one to-Lepta assign if you-wish
Tu ad me alium mitte quem ornem.' Sustulimus manus
You to me another send whom I-may-honor We-raised hands
et ego et Balbus. Tanta fuit opportunitas, ut illud
both I and Balbus So-great was the-timeliness that that
nescio quid non fortuitum, sed divinum videretur. Mitto
I-know-not what not accidental but divine seemed I-send
igitur ad te Trebatium atque ita mitto ut initio mea
therefore to you Trebatius and so I-send that at-the-start of-my
sponte, post autem invitatu tuo mittendum duxerim.
own-accord after however at-the-invitation your to-be-sent I-have-judged-him

Hunc, mi Caesar, sic velim omni tua comitate 3
This-man my Caesar so I-would-wish with-all your courtesy
complectare, ut omnia, quae per me possis adduci ut
you-embrace that all-things which through me you-could to-be-brought that
in meos conferre velis, in unum hunc conferas. De
on my-friends to-confer you-would-wish on one this-man you-confer About
quo tibi homine haec spondeo non illo vetere verbo
whom to-you man these-things I-pledge not with-that old word
meo, quod cum ad te de Milone scripsissem, iure lusisti,
my which when to you about Milo I-had-written rightly you-mocked
sed more Romano, quo modo homines non inepti
but in-the-manner Roman in-which way men not foolish
loquuntur, probiorem hominem, meliorem virum, pudentiorem
speak more-upright a-man better man more-modest
esse neminem; accedit etiam, quod familiam ducit in iure
to-be no-one there-is-added also that the-household he-leads in law
civili singulari memoria, summa scientia. Huic ego neque
civil with-singular memory with-highest knowledge For-him I neither
tribunatum neque praefecturam neque ullius benefici certum
a-tribunate nor a-prefecture nor of-any favor definite
nomen peto, benevolentiam tuam et liberalitatem peto
name I-seek goodwill your and generosity I-seek
neque impedio quo minus, si tibi ita placuerit, etiam
nor do-I-hinder by-which less if to-you so it-will-have-pleased even
hisce eum ornes gloriolae insignibus; totum denique
with-these him you-adorn of-little-glory with-badges whole finally
hominem tibi ita trado, 'de manu,' ut aiunt, 'in manum'
the-man to-you so I-hand-over from hand as they-say into hand
tuam istam et victoria et fide praestantem. Simus enim
your that and in-victory and in-faith outstanding Let-us-be for

putidiusculi, quamquam per te vix licet; verum, ut
a-little-tiresome although through you scarcely it-is-allowed but as
video, licebit. Cura ut valeas, et me, ut amas, ama.
I-see it-will-be-allowed Take-care that you-are-well and me as you-love love

VII.6 · MEDEA'S LESSON

Every letter Cicero sends to Caesar or Balbus carries a commendation of Trebatius. Trebatius should put aside his longing for the city and pursue his aim with persistence; his friends will forgive him as the matrons of Corinth forgave Medea, for many have done well far from home, and he would have been among those condemned for staying at home had they not pushed him out. He should beware of being tricked by the chariot-fighters in Britain, and remember Medea's line that the wise man who cannot profit himself is wise in vain.

Cicero s. d. Trebatio.
Cicero greeting says to-Trebatius

1 In omnibus meis epistulis, quas ad Caesarem aut ad Balbum
In all my letters which to Caesar or to Balbus
mitto, legitima quaedam est accessio commendationis tuae,
I-send a-lawful certain is addition of-commendation your
nec ea vulgaris sed cum aliquo insigni indicio meae erga
nor that common but with some notable sign of-my toward
te benevolentiae. Tu modo ineptias istas et desideria
you goodwill You only follies those and longings
urbis et urbanitatis depone et, quo consilio profectus
of-the-city and of-city-ways put-aside and with-what purpose set-out
es, id adsiduitate et virtute consequere. Hoc tibi
you-have that by-persistence and by-courage achieve This to-you
tam ignoscemus nos amici, quam ignoverunt Medeae,
as-much will-pardon we friends as they-pardoned Medea

‘Quae Corinthum arcem altam habebant matronae opulentae,
Who Corinth citadel lofty held matrons wealthy
optimates,’
noble

quibus illa manibus gypsatissimis persuasit ne sibi vitio
whom she with-hands most-chalked persuaded lest to-herself for-a-fault
illae verterent, quod abesset a patria; nam
they should-turn that she-was-away from her-country for

‘Multi suam rem bene gessere
Many their-own affair well have-managed
et publicam patria procul;
and the-public from-country far
Multi, qui domi aetatem agerent, propterea sunt improbati.’
Many who at-home life would-spend for-that-reason have-been condemned

Quo in numero tu certe fuisses, nisi te extrusissemus.
Which in number you certainly would-have-been unless you we-had-thrust-out
Sed plura scribemus alias. Tu, qui ceteris cavere 2
But more we-shall-write another-time You who for-others to-take-care
didicisti, in Britannia ne ab essedariis decipiaris caveto
have-learned in Britain lest by the-chariot-fighters you-be-deceived take-care
et (quoniam Medeam coepi agere) illud semper memento:
and since Medea I-have-begun to-play that always remember

‘Qui ipse sibi sapiens prodesse non quit, nequiquam sapit.’
Who himself to-himself wise to-profit not can in-vain is-wise

Cura ut valeas.
Take-care that you-are-well

VII.7 · NO GOLD IN BRITAIN

Cicero keeps commending Trebatius and wonders why his letters do not come as often as Quintus’ do. He hears there is no gold or silver in Britain; if so, Trebatius should seize a chariot and run home. If he can get what they want without Britain, he should make himself one of Caesar’s intimates, helped by Quintus and Balbus but most by his own modesty and labor; with a generous general, the right time of life, and a singular commendation, he need only fear failing himself.

Cicero Trebatio.
Cicero to-Trebatius

1 Ego te commendare non desisto, sed quid proficiam ex
I you to-commend not cease but what I-may-accomplish from
te scire cupio. Spem maximam habeo in Balbo, ad quem
you to-know I-desire Hope greatest I-have in Balbus to whom
de te diligentissime et saepissime scribo. Illud soleo
about you most-carefully and most-often I-write That I-am-wont
mirari, non me totiens accipere tuas litteras, quotiens a
to-wonder not me so-often to-receive your letters as-often-as from
Quinto mihi fratre adferantur. In Britannia nihil esse audio
Quintus to-me brother they-are-brought In Britain nothing to-be I-hear
neque auri neque argenti. Id si ita est, essedum aliquod
neither of-gold nor of-silver That if so is a-chariot some
capias suadeo et ad nos quam primum recurras.
you-should-take I-advise and to us as first you-run-back

Sin autem sine Britannia tamen adsequi quod volumus 2
But-if however without Britain still to-attain what we-wish
possumus, perfice ut sis in familiaribus Caesaris.
we-can bring-it-about that you-be among the-intimates of-Caesar
Multum te in eo frater adiuvabit meus, multum Balbus,
Much you in that brother will-help my much Balbus
sed, mihi crede, tuus pudor et labor plurimum. Imperatorem
but me believe your modesty and labor most A-general
liberalissimum, aetatem opportunissimam, commendationem
most-generous an-age most-suitable a-commendation
certe singularem, ut tibi unum timendum sit ne ipse
certainly singular so-that for-you one-thing to-be-feared is lest yourself
tibi defuisse videare.
yourself to-have-failed you-seem

VII.8 · TOO HASTY

Caesar writes that Trebatius is not yet intimate with him, though he will be; Cicero answered how grateful he would be for every kindness. But Trebatius' letters show an over-hasty impatience, and Cicero wonders that he scorns the advantages of a tribunate without the toil of service. He will complain to Vacerra and Manilius; Trebatius should seize this chance, the best he will ever have. Cicero has commended him to Precianus and awaits his British letters.

Cicero Trebatio.
Cicero to-Trebatius
Scripsit ad me Caesar perhumaniter nondum te sibi satis 1
Wrote to me Caesar most-courteously not-yet you to-him enough
esse familiarem propter occupationes suas, sed certe fore.
to-be intimate because-of occupations his but certainly would-be
Cui quidem ego rescripsi, quam mihi gratum esset
To-whom indeed I wrote-back how to-me pleasing it-was

futurum, si quam plurimum in te studi, offici, liberalitatis
going-to-be if as most on you of-zeal of-service of-generosity
suae contulisset. Sed ex tuis litteris cognovi praeproperam
his he-had-bestowed But from your letter I-learned over-hasty
quandam festinationem tuam et simul sum admiratus
a-certain haste your and at-the-same-time I-have wondered
cur tribunatus commoda, dempto praesertim labore militiae,
why of-the-tribunate the-advantages removed especially the-labor of-service
contempseris.
you-have-scorned

2 Querar cum Vacerra et Manilio; nam Cornelio nihil
I-shall-complain with Vacerra and Manilius for to-Cornelius nothing
audeo dicere, cuius tu periculo stultus es, quoniam
I-dare to-say at-whose you risk foolish are since
te ab eo sapere didicisse profiteris. Quin tu urges
you from him to-be-wise to-have-learned you-profess Why-not you press
istam occasionem et facultatem, qua melior numquam
that opportunity and chance than-which better never
reperietur? Quod scribis de illo Preciano iure consulto,
will-be-found As-to-what you-write about that Precianus in-law learned
ego te ei non desino commendare; scribit enim ipse
I you to-him not cease to-commend he-writes for himself
mihi te sibi gratias agere debere. De eo quid sit, cura
to-me you to-him thanks to-give to-owe About that what it-is take-care
ut sciam. Ego vestras Britannicas litteras exspecto.
that I-know I your British letters await

Cicero has long not heard from Trebatius and has not written for two months, not knowing where to send while Trebatius was away from Quintus. He wants to know where he will winter, preferably with Caesar, to whom Cicero dared not write while he mourned. Trebatius should not fail himself; there is no reason to hurry home now that Battara is dead. A certain Gnaeus Octavius or Cornelius, a son of the earth, keeps inviting Cicero to dinner as Trebatius' friend.

Cicero Trebatio.

Cicero to-Trebatius

Iam diu ignoro quid agas; nihil enim scribis; neque 1
Now long I-do-not-know what you-are-doing nothing for you-write nor
ego ad te his duobus mensibus scripseram. Quod cum
I to you in-these two months had-written Because with
Quinto fratre meo non eras, quo mitterem aut cui
Quintus brother my not you-were where I-should-send or to-whom
darem nesciebam. Cupio scire quid agas et ubi
I-should-give I-did-not-know I-desire to-know what you-are-doing and where
sis hiematurus; equidem velim cum Caesare, sed ad
you-are going-to-winter for-my-part I-would-wish with Caesar but to
eum propter eius luctum nihil sum ausus scribere; ad
him because-of his grief nothing I-have dared to-write to
Balbum tamen scripsi.
Balbus still I-wrote
Tu tibi desse noli; serius potius ad nos, dum plenior. 2
You to-yourself to-be-wanting do-not later rather to us provided fuller
Quod huc properes, nihil est, praesertim Battara mortuo.
That here you-should-hurry nothing is especially Battara dead
Sed tibi consilium non dest. Quid constitueris, cupio scire.
But to-you counsel not is-lacking What you-have-decided I-desire to-know

3 Cn. Octavius est an Cn. Cornelius quidam, tuus
Gnaeus Octavius is-it or Gnaeus Cornelius a-certain your
familiaris, summo genere natus, terrae filius. Is me quia
friend of-highest family born of-the-earth a-son He me because
scit tuum familiarem esse, crebro ad cenam invitat. Adhuc
he-knows your friend to-be often to dinner invites So-far
non potuit perducere, sed mihi tamen gratum est.
not he-has-been-able to-bring-me but to-me still pleasing it-is

VII.10 · A COLD LAWYER

Trebatius seems to Caesar a very learned lawyer, and in Britain he would have been the most skilled man on the island. Cicero envies him being summoned by a man others cannot reach. He fears Trebatius is cold in winter quarters and prescribes a good stove, as Mucius and Manilius would; though he hears they are hot enough there. Trebatius, who would not swim in the Ocean or watch the chariot-fighters, is more cautious at war than at the bar. Cicero has written to Caesar again; one meeting between the two of them would be worth more than all the Aedui.

M. Cicero s. d. Trebatio.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Trebatius
1 Legi tuas litteras, ex quibus intellexi te Caesari nostro valde
I-read your letter from which I-understood you to-Caesar our very
iure consultum videri. Est quod gaudeas te in ista loca
in-law learned to-seem There-is why you-should-rejoice you into those places
venisse, ubi aliquid sapere viderere. Quod si in Britanniam
to-have-come where something to-know you-might-seem But if into Britain
quoque profectus esses, profecto nemo in illa tanta insula
also set-out you-had surely no-one in that so-great island
peritior te fuisset. Verum tamen (rideamus licet;
more-skilled than-you would-have-been But still let-us-laugh it-is-allowed

sum enim a te invitatus) subinvideo tibi ultro etiam
I-am for by you invited I-somewhat-envy you of-his-own-accord even
accersitum ab eo, ad quem ceteri non propter superbiam
summoned by him to whom the-rest not because-of pride
eius sed propter occupationem aspirare non possunt.
his but because-of business to-approach not can
Sed tu in ista epistula nihil mihi scripsisti de tuis rebus, 2
But you in that letter nothing to-me wrote about your affairs
quae me hercule mihi non minori curae sunt quam meae.
which so-help-me Hercules to-me not for-less concern are than my-own
Valde metuo ne frigeas in hibernis. Quam ob rem
Greatly I-fear lest you-be-cold in winter-quarters Which on-account-of thing
camino luculento utendum censeo (idem Mucio et Manilio
a-stove bright to-be-used I-think the-same to-Mucius and to-Manilius
placebat), praesertim qui sagis non abundares. Quamquam
was-pleasing especially who in-cloaks not you-abounded Although
vos nunc istic satis calere audio; quo quidem nuntio valde
you now there enough to-be-hot I-hear at-which indeed news greatly
me hercule de te timueram. Sed tu in re militari
so-help-me Hercules about you I-had-feared But you in affairs military
multo es cautior quam in advocationibus, qui neque in
much are more-cautious than in pleadings who neither in
Oceano natare volueris studiosissimus homo natandi neque
the-Ocean to-swim would-wish most-keen man of-swimming nor
spectare essedarios, quem antea ne andabata quidem
to-watch the-chariot-fighters whom before not a-blindfold-gladiator even
defraudare poteramus. Sed iam satis iocati sumus.
to-cheat-of we-could But now enough joked we-have
Ego de te ad Caesarem quam diligenter scripserim, tute 3
I about you to Caesar how carefully I-have-written you-yourself
scis, quam saepe, ego; sed me hercule iam intermiseram,
know how often I but so-help-me Hercules now I-had-stopped

ne viderer liberalissimi hominis meique amantissimi
lest I-seem of-a-most-generous man and-of-me most-loving
voluntati erga me diffidere. Sed tamen iis litteris, quas
the-goodwill toward me to-distrust But still in-that letter which
proxime dedi, putavi esse hominem commonendum. Id
last I-sent I-thought to-be the-man to-be-reminded That
feci; quid profecerim, facias me velim certiorem et
I-did what I-have-achieved make me I-would-wish more-certain and
simul de toto statu tuo consiliisque omnibus; scire
at-the-same-time about whole state your and-plans all to-know
enim cupio quid agas, quid exspectes, quam longum
for I-desire what you-are-doing what you-expect how long
istum tuum discessum a nobis futurum putes.
that your departure from us going-to-be you-think
4 Sic enim tibi persuadeas velim, unum mihi esse solacium
So for yourself persuade I-would-wish one for-me to-be comfort
qua re facilius possim pati te esse sine nobis, si
by-which thing more-easily I-can to-bear you to-be without us if
tibi esse id emolumento sciam; sin autem id non est,
to-you to-be that for-profit I-know but-if however that not is
nihil duobus nobis est stultius, me, qui te non Romam
nothing than-two us is more-foolish me who you not to-Rome
attraham, te, qui non huc advoles. Una me hercule
drag you who not here fly One so-help-me Hercules
nostra vel severa vel iocosa congressio pluris erit
our either serious or jesting meeting of-more-worth will-be

quam non modo hostes, sed etiam fratres nostri Haedui.
than not only the-enemies but even brothers our the-Aedui
Qua re omnibus de rebus fac ut quam primum sciam.
By-which thing all about things see that as first I-know

'Aut consolando aut consilio aut re iuvero.'
Either by-consoling or by-counsel or by-means I-will-help

VII.11 · SO MANY INTERREGNA

With so many interregna, who needs a lawyer at Rome? Cicero would advise all defendants to ask each interrex for two adjournments. He is glad Trebatius jokes in his letters; Trebatius writes that Caesar consults him, but Cicero would rather Caesar consulted his interests. If there is hope, he should stay on; if it is empty, come home, since one talk with Cicero is worth all the Samarobrivas, and if he stays long without result, Laberius may put a British lawyer on the stage. Behind the jest Cicero advises him to keep his standing and add to his honor.

Cicero Trebatio.
Cicero to-Trebatius
Nisi ante Roma profectus esses, nunc eam certe 1
Unless before from-Rome set-out you-had now it certainly
relinqueres; quis enim tot interregnis iure consultum
you-would-leave who for with-so-many interregna in-law learned
desiderat? Ego omnibus, unde petitur, hoc consili
misses I to-all from-whom it-is-sued this of-counsel
dederim, ut a singulis interregibus binas advocationes
I-would-give that from single interreges two-each adjournments
postulent. Satisne tibi videor abs te ius civile didicisse?
they-demand Enough to-you do-I-seem from you the-law civil to-have-learned

2 Sed heus tu! quid agis? ecquid fit? video enim te
But hey you what are-you-doing anything is-happening I-see for you
iam iocari per litteras. Haec signa meliora sunt quam in
now to-joke through letters These signs better are than in
meo Tusculano. Sed quid sit scire cupio. Consuli quidem
my Tusculan-villa But what it-is to-know I-desire To-be-consulted indeed
te a Caesare scribis; sed ego tibi ab illo consuli
you by Caesar you-write but I for-you by him to-be-consulted-for
mallem. Quod si aut fit aut futurum putas, perfer
would-prefer But if either it-happens or going-to-be you-think endure
istam militiam et permane; ego enim desiderium tui
that service and stay-on I for the-longing for-you
spe tuorum commodorum consolabor; sin autem ista
with-hope of-your advantages will-console but-if however those
sunt inaniora, recipe te ad nos. Nam aut erit
are emptier take yourself to us For either there-will-be
hic aliquid aliquando aut, si minus, una me hercule
here something some-time or if less one so-help-me Hercules
conlocutio nostra pluris erit quam omnes Samarobrivae.
talk our of-more-worth will-be than all the-Samarobrivas
Denique, si cito te rettuleris, sermo nullus erit;
Finally if quickly yourself you-bring-back talk none there-will-be
si diutius frustra afueris, non modo Laberium sed
if longer in-vain you-have-been-away not only Laberius but
etiam sodalem nostrum Valerium pertimesco; mira enim
even comrade our Valerius I-dread a-wonderful for
persona induci potest Britannici iure consulti.
character to-be-brought-on can of-a-British in-law learned

3 Haec ego non rideo, quamvis tu rideas, sed de re
These-things I not laugh-at although you laugh but about a-matter
severissima tecum, ut soleo, iocor. Remoto ioco tibi hoc
most-serious with-you as I-am-wont I-joke Removed joking to-you this

amicissimo animo praecipio, ut, si istic mea commendatione
in-most-friendly mind I-advise that if there by-my commendation
tuam dignitatem obtinebis, perferas nostri desiderium,
your standing you-will-hold you-endure our missing
honestatem et facultates tuas augeas, sin autem ista
honor and resources your you-increase but-if however those-things
frigebunt, recipias te ad nos. Omnia tamen quae vis
will-grow-cold take yourself to us All-things still which you-wish
et tua virtute profecto et nostro summo erga te studio
both by-your courage surely and by-our highest toward you zeal
consequere.
you-will-attain

VII.12 · TREBATIUS THE EPICUREAN

Pansa tells Cicero that Trebatius has become an Epicurean in camp: what would he have done at Tarentum? How will a man who does everything for his own sake defend the civil law, the formula of good faith, a division of common property, or swear by Jupiter the stone, when Jupiter can be angry with no one? What will become of the people of Ulubrae if he holds one should not take part in public life? If he only means to humor Pansa, Cicero forgives him.

Cicero Trebatio.
Cicero to-Trebatius
Mirabar quid esset, quod tu mihi litteras mittere 1
I-was-wondering what it-was that you to-me letters to-send
intermisisses: indicavit mihi Pansa meus Epicureum te esse
had-stopped informed me Pansa my an-Epicurean you to-be
factum. O castra praeclara! Quid tu fecisses, si te Tarentum
made O camp splendid What you would-have-done if you to-Tarentum

et non Samarobrivam misissem? Iam tum mihi non
and not to-Samarobriva I-had-sent Already then to-me not
placebas, cum idem tuebare quod Zeius, familiaris meus.
you-were-pleasing when the-same you-defended as Zeius friend my
2 Sed quonam modo ius civile defendes, cum omnia tua
But in-what way the-law civil will-you-defend when all for-your-own
causa facias, non civium? Ubi porro illa erit formula
sake you-do not of-the-citizens Where moreover that will-be the-formula
fiduciae: 'ut inter bonos bene agier oportet'? quis enim
of-trust that among good-men well to-be-dealt it-behooves who for
est, qui facit nihil nisi sua causa? Quod ius statues
is-there who does nothing except for-his-own sake What law will-you-set
'communi dividundo,' quom commune nihil possit esse apud
for-the-common dividing when common nothing can to-be among
eos, qui omnia voluptate sua metiuntur? Quo modo autem
those who all-things by-pleasure their-own measure In-what way however
tibi placebit 'Iovem lapidem iurare,' cum scias Iovem
to-you will-it-please by-Jupiter the-stone to-swear when you-know Jupiter
iratum esse nemini posse? Quid fiet porro populo
angry to-be with-no-one can What will-become moreover of-the-people
Ulubrano, si tu statueris πολιτεύεσθαι non oportere?
Ulubran if you will-have-decided to-take-part-in-public-life not to-be-right
Qua re si plane a nobis deficis, moleste fero, sin Pansae
By-which thing if wholly from us you-defect ill I-bear but-if to-Pansa
adsentari commodumst, ignosco; modo scribe aliquando ad
to-assent is-convenient I-forgive only write some-time to
nos quid agas et a nobis quid fieri aut curari velis.
us what you-are-doing and by us what to-be-done or attended-to you-wish

Trebatius should not think Cicero angry at his impatience: he stopped writing only because he did not know where Trebatius was. Cicero asks whether Trebatius' pride comes from money or from being consulted by the general; he thinks Trebatius would rather be consulted by Caesar than gilded. Cicero is glad he is there willingly, though his law avails little where men settle claims with iron; he need not fear the interdict's clause against coming first with armed force, being no provoker, and should avoid the Treviri, who are capital men. Dated the fourth before the Nones of March.

M. Cicero s. d. Trebatio.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Trebatius

Adeone me iniustum esse existimasti ut tibi irascerer, 1

So me unjust to-be have-you-thought that at-you I-should-be-angry

quod parum mihi constans et nimium cupidus decedendi

because too-little to-me constant and too eager of-departing

viderere, ob eamque causam me arbitrarere litteras

you-seemed on-account-of and-that cause me you-thought a-letter

ad te iam diu non misisse? Mihi perturbatio animi tui,

to you now for-long not to-have-sent To-me the-disturbance of-mind your

quam primis litteris perspiciebam, molestiam attulit; neque

which in-your-first letter I-perceived vexation brought nor

alia ulla fuit causa intermissionis epistularum, nisi quod

other any was the-cause of-the-break of-letters except that

ubi esses plane nesciebam. Hic tu me etiam insimulas

where you-were wholly I-did-not-know Here you me even accuse

nec satisfactionem meam accipis? Audi, Testa mi: utrum

nor apology my do-you-accept Listen Testa my whether

superbiorem te pecunia facit, an quod te imperator

prouder you money makes or that you the-general

consulit? Moriar ni, quae tua gloria est, puto te malle

consults May-I-die unless such your vanity is I-think you to-prefer

a Caesare consuli quam inaurari. Si vero utrumque est,
by Caesar to-be-consulted than to-be-gilded If indeed both is
quis te feret praeter me, qui omnia ferre possum?
who you will-bear except me who all-things to-bear can
2 Sed ut ad rem redeam, te istic invitum non esse
But that to the-matter I-may-return you there unwilling not to-be
vehementer gaudeo et, ut illud erat molestum, sic hoc est
vehemently I-rejoice and as that was vexing so this is
iucundum. Tantum metuo ne artificium tuum tibi parum
pleasant Only I-fear lest craft your to-you too-little
prosit; nam, ut audio, istic
may-profit for as I-hear there

'Non ex iure manum consertum, sed magis ferro
Not from law hand to-join but rather with-iron
Rem repetunt,'
The-thing they-claim

et tu soles ad vim faciundam adhiberi, neque est quod
and you are-wont for force to-be-done to-be-employed nor is-there why
illam exceptionem in interdicto pertimescas: 'quod tu prior
that exception in the-interdict you-should-dread that you first
vi hominibus armatis non veneris'; scio enim te non
by-force with-men armed not you-came I-know for you not
esse procacem in lacessendo. Sed ut ego quoque te aliquid
to-be forward in provoking But that I also you of-something
admoneam de vestris cautionibus, Treviros vites censeo. Audio
may-remind about your precautions the-Treviri avoid I-advise I-hear
capitalis esse; mallem 'aere, argento, auro' essent. Sed
capital they-are I-would-prefer of-bronze of-silver of-gold they-were But

alias iocabimur. Tu ad me de istis rebus omnibus scribas
another-time we-shall-joke You to me about those things all write
velim quam diligentissime. D. iiii Non. Mart.
I-would-wish as most-carefully Dated fourth before-the-Nones of-March

VII.14 · DO NOT FORGET ME

Chrysippus, freedman of Cyrus the architect, brought Trebatius' greeting, but Trebatius grudges a letter to a man almost of his household. If he has forgotten how to write, fewer will lose their cases; if he has forgotten Cicero, Cicero will come before he slips quite out of mind; if he fears the summer camp, he should devise something as he did about Britain. Cicero is glad he is Caesar's intimate, but would rather hear it from his letters, if he had studied the laws of goodwill as well as those of lawsuits.

Cicero Trebatio.
Cicero to-Trebatius
Chrysippus Vettius, Cyri architecti libertus fecit ut te non 1
Chrysippus Vettius of-Cyrus the-architect freedman made that you not
immemorem putarem mei; salutem enim verbis tuis mihi
unmindful I-should-think of-me greeting for in-words your to-me
nuntiarat. Valde iam lautus es qui gravere litteras ad me
he-had-brought Very now fine you-are who are-loath a-letter to me
dare homini praesertim prope domestico. Quod si scribere
to-give to-a-man especially almost of-the-household But if to-write
oblitus es, minus multi iam te advocato causa cadent;
forgotten you-have fewer many now you as-advocate from-their-case will-fall
si nostri oblitus es, dabo operam ut istuc veniam
if us forgotten you-have I-will-give effort that there I-come

ante quam plane ex animo tuo effluo; sin aestivorum
sooner than wholly out-of mind your I-flow-away but-if of-the-summer-camp
timor te debilitat, aliquid excogita, ut fecisti de Britannia.
fear you weakens something devise as you-did about Britain
2 Illud quidem perlibenter audivi ex eodem Chrysippo, te
That indeed most-gladly I-heard from the-same Chrysippus you
esse Caesari familiarem; sed me hercule mallem, id
to-be to-Caesar intimate but so-help-me Hercules I-would-prefer that
quod erat aequius, de tuis rebus ex tuis litteris quam
which was fairer about your affairs from your letters as
saepissime cognoscerem. Quod certe ita fieret, si tu
most-often I-should-learn Which certainly so would-happen if you
maluisses benevolentiae quam litium iura perdiscere. Sed
had-preferred of-goodwill than of-lawsuits the-laws to-master But
haec iocati sumus et tuo more et non nihil etiam
these-things joked we-have both in-your manner and not nothing also
nostro. Te valde amamus nosque a te amari cum
in-our-own You greatly we-love and-ourselves by you to-be-loved both
volumus tum etiam confidimus.
we-wish and also we-trust

VII.15 · LOVERS ARE PEEVISH

How peevish lovers are: Cicero grieved when Trebatius was there unwillingly, and now grieves that he is there gladly and can be happy without him. Still he would rather bear the longing than see Trebatius miss what he hopes for. He is delighted that Trebatius has become the friend of Gaius Matius, the most charming and learned of men, and nothing from that province will be more pleasant to bring home.

Cicero Trebatio.

Cicero to-Trebatius

Quam sint morosi qui amant, vel ex hoc intellegi 1

How they-are peevish who love even from this to-be-understood

potest: Moleste ferebam antea te invitum istic esse; pungit

can Ill I-bore before you unwilling there to-be it-stings

me rursus, quod scribis esse te istic libenter. Neque enim

me again that you-write to-be you there gladly Nor for

mea commendatione te non delectari facile patiebar et

by-my commendation you not to-be-delighted easily did-I-endure and

nunc angor quicquam tibi sine me esse iucundum.

now I-am-vexed anything to-you without me to-be pleasant

Sed hoc tamen malo ferre nos desiderium quam te non

But this still I-prefer to-bear us the-longing than you not

ea quae spero consequi.

those-things which I-hope to-attain

Quom vero in C. Mati, suavissimi doctissimique 2

When indeed into of-Gaius Matius most-delightful and-most-learned

hominis, familiaritatem venisti, non dici potest quam

man intimacy you-have-come not to-be-said can how

valde gaudeam. Qui fac ut te quam maxime diligat.

greatly I-rejoice Who see that you as most he-may-love

Mihi crede, nihil ex ista provincia potes quod iucundius

Me believe nothing from that province you-can which more-pleasant

sit deportare. Cura ut valeas.

may-be to-bring-home Take-care that you-are-well

In the Trojan Horse, Cicero quotes, men grew wise too late; Trebatius has not. His first letters were rather rabid, and his lack of curiosity in Britain Cicero does not blame; now in winter quarters he does not care to stir, though wisdom everywhere is the sharpest weapon. Cicero would have dined with Gnaeus Octavius if he dined out, and when invited asked him who he was; jokes aside, he is a nice man. Balbus assures him Trebatius will be rich, whether in the Roman sense or the Stoics'. Visitors call him proud, but all agree no one at Samarobriva is more skilled in law.

M. Cicero s. d. Trebatio.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Trebatius

1 In 'Equo Troiano' scis esse in extremo 'sero sapiunt.' Tu
In the-Horse Trojan you-know it-is at the-end late they-are-wise You
tamen, mi vetule, non sero. Primas illas rabiosulas sat fatuas
still my old-boy not late First those rather-rabid enough silly
dedisti; deinde quod in Britannia non nimis φιλοθέωρον te
you-sent then that in Britain not too sight-loving yourself
praebuisti, plane non reprehendo. Nunc vero in hibernis
you-showed wholly not I-blame Now indeed in winter-quarters
iniectus mihi videris, itaque te commovere non curas.
thrown-in to-me you-seem therefore yourself to-stir not you-care

'Usquequaque sapere oportet; id erit telum acerrimum.'
Everywhere to-be-wise it-behooves that will-be the-weapon sharpest

2 Ego si foris cenitarem, Cn. Octavio, familiari
I if out I-were-in-the-habit-of-dining to-Gnaeus Octavius friend
tuo, non defuissem; cui tamen dixi, cum me aliquotiens
your not I-would-have-failed to-whom still I-said when me several-times

invitaret: ‘Oro te, quis tu es?’ Sed me hercules extra
he-invited I-beg you who you are But so-help-me Hercules outside
iocum homo bellus est; vellem eum tecum abduxisses.
joking a-man nice he-is I-would-wish him with-you you-had-taken-away
Quid agatis et ecquid in Italiam venturi sitis hac 3
What you-are-doing and whether into Italy going-to-come you-are this
hieme fac plane sciam. Balbus mihi confirmavit te divitem
winter see clearly I-know Balbus to-me has-assured you rich
futurum. Id utrum Romano more locutus sit, bene
going-to-be That whether in-Roman manner spoken he-has well
nummatum te futurum, an quo modo Stoici dicunt,
moneyed you going-to-be or in-what way the-Stoics say
omnis esse divites qui caelo et terra frui possint, postea
all to-be rich who the-sky and the-earth to-enjoy can afterward
videbo. Qui istinc veniunt, superbiam tuam accusant,
I-shall-see Who from-there come pride your they-accuse
quod negent te percontantibus respondere. Sed tamen
because they-say-not you to-askers to-answer But still
est quod gaudeas; constat enim inter omnis neminem
there-is why you-should-rejoice it-is-agreed for among all no-one
te uno Samarobrivae iuris peritiorem esse.
than-you alone at-Samarobriva of-law more-skilled to-be

Cicero thanks Quintus and praises Trebatius for settling at last. In the first months his letters seemed fickle, sluggish, timid, and even impudent, as if he had brought a bond to the general rather than a letter. Cicero would have kept him at his own side for pleasure and use, but when his provincial plan changed he commended him to Caesar as weightily as he could, and Caesar has shown his goodwill. Trebatius should not let such a man go, but endure any delay and await the end; he will not find a better time, and Cicero is glad he did not go to Britain.

Cicero Trebatio s.

Cicero to-Trebatius greeting

1 Ex tuis litteris et Quinto fratri gratias egi et te aliquando
From your letter both to-Quintus brother thanks I-gave and you at-last
conlaudare possum, quod iam videris certa aliqua in sententia
to-praise I-can because now you-seem definite some in opinion
constitisse. Nam primorum mensum litteris tuis vehementer
to-have-settled For of-the-first months by-the-letters your vehemently
commovebar, quod mihi interdum (pace tua dixerim) levis
I-was-disturbed because to-me at-times by-the-leave your I-may-say fickle
in urbis urbanitatisque desiderio, interdum piger, interdum
in of-the-city and-of-city-ways longing at-times sluggish at-times
timidus in labore militari, saepe autem etiam, quod a
timid in labor military often however even what from
te alienissimum est, subimpudens videbare. Tamquam enim
you most-foreign is somewhat-impudent you-seemed As-if for
syngrapham ad imperatorem non epistulam attulisses, sic
a-bond to the-general not a-letter you-had-brought so
pecunia ablata domum redire properabas, nec tibi in
money taken home to-return you-hurried nor to-you into

mentem veniebat eos ipsos qui cum syngraphis venissent
mind came those very-men who with bonds had-come
Alexandream nummum adhuc nullum auferre potuisse.
to-Alexandria a-coin as-yet none to-carry-off to-have-been-able
Ego si mei commodi rationem ducerem, te mecum esse 2
I if of-my advantage account I-took you with-me to-be
maxime vellem; non enim mediocri adficiebar vel voluptate
most I-would-wish not for with-moderate I-was-affected either pleasure
ex consuetudine nostra vel utilitate ex consilio atque opera
from companionship our or usefulness from counsel and help
tua; sed cum te ex adulescentia tua in amicitiam et
your but since yourself from youth your into friendship and
fidem meam contulisses, semper te non modo tuendum mihi
protection my you-had-brought always you not only to-be-protected by-me
sed etiam augendum atque ornandum putavi. Itaque quoad
but also to-be-advanced and to-be-honored I-thought And-so as-long-as
opinatus sum me in provinciam exiturum, quae ad te ultro
supposed I-have me into a-province going-to-go-out what-things to you unasked
detulerim meminisse te credo. Postea quam ea mutata ratio
I-offered to-remember you I-believe Afterward when that changed plan
est, cum viderem me a Caesare honorificentissime tractari
was when I-saw me by Caesar most-honorably to-be-treated
et unice diligi hominisque liberalitatem incredibilem et
and uniquely to-be-loved and-of-the-man generosity incredible and
singularem fidem nossem, sic ei te commendavi et
singular good-faith I-knew so to-him you I-commended and
tradidi, ut gravissime diligentissimeque potui. Quod ille ita
handed-over as most-weightily and-most-carefully I-could Which he so
et accepit et mihi saepe litteris significavit et tibi et
both received and to-me often by-letters indicated and to-you both
verbis et re ostendit mea commendatione sese valde esse
by-words and by-deed showed by-my commendation himself greatly to-be

commotum. Hunc tu virum nactus, si me aut sapere aliquid
moved This you man having-got if me either to-know anything
aut velle tua causa putas, ne dimiseris et, si quae te
or to-wish for-your sake you-think do-not let-go and if any you
forte res aliquando offenderit, cum ille aut occupatione aut
perhaps thing at-some-time will-have-offended when he either through-business or
difficultate tardior tibi erit visus, perferto et ultima
through-difficulty slower to-you will-have seemed endure and the-last-things
exspectato; quae ego tibi iucunda et honesta praestabo.
await which I to-you pleasant and honorable will-guarantee
3 Pluribus te hortari non debeo; tantum moneo, neque
With-more you to-exhort not I-ought only I-warn neither
amicitiae confirmandae clarissimi ac liberalissimi viri neque
of-friendship to-be-strengthened of-a-most-famous and most-generous man nor
uberioris provinciae neque aetatis magis idoneum tempus,
of-a-richer province nor of-age more suitable a-time
si hoc amiseris, te esse ullum umquam reperturum. 'Hoc,'
if this you-lose you to-be any ever going-to-find This
quem ad modum vos scribere soletis in vestris libris, 'idem
in-what to manner you to-write are-wont in your books the-same
Q. Cornelio videbatur.' In Britanniam te profectum
to-Quintus Cornelius seemed Into Britain you set-out
non esse gaudeo, quod et labore caruisti et ego
not to-have I-rejoice because both of-labor you-have-been-free and I
te de rebus illis non audiam. Ubi sis hibernaturus
you about matters those not will-hear Where you-are going-to-winter
et qua spe aut condicione perscribas ad me velim.
and with-what hope or terms write-in-full to me I-would-wish

Several letters came at once; they show Trebatius bearing the service with a firm mind, and Cicero sends him a Greekish bond in his own hand, since lawyers' securities are weak. Cicero asks how a man writing in his own hand sends several copies of one letter, and why on a palimpsest: what was erased, his formulas? He will commend Trebatius to Balbus in the Roman manner, writes from the Pomptine marsh, where the frogs of Ulubrae croaked in his honor, and tore up an innocent letter brought by Arruntius.

Cicero Trebatio s.

Cicero to-Trebatius greeting

Accepi a te aliquot epistulas uno tempore, quas tu 1
I-received from you several letters at-one time which you
diversis temporibus dederas. In quibus me cetera delectarunt;
at-different times had-sent In which me the-rest delighted
significabant enim te istam militiam iam firmo animo ferre
they-indicated for you that service now with-firm mind to-bear
et esse fortem virum et constantem; quae ego paulisper
and to-be a-brave man and steadfast which-things I for-a-little-while
in te ita desideravi non imbecillitate animi tui sed magis
in you so missed not through-weakness of-mind your but rather
ut desiderio nostri te aestuare putarem. Qua re perge,
that with-longing for-us you to-be-fevered I-thought By-which thing go-on
ut coepisti; forti animo istam tolera militiam. Multa,
as you-have-begun with-brave mind that endure service Many-things
mihi crede, adsequere; ego enim renovabo commendationem,
me believe you-will-attain I for will-renew the-commendation
sed tempore. Sic habeto, non tibi maiori esse curae ut
but in-time So hold not to-you for-greater to-be concern that
iste tuus a me discessus quam fructuosissimus tibi sit,
that your from me departure as most-fruitful to-you be

quam mihi. Itaque quoniam vestrae cautiones infirmae sunt,
than to-me And-so since your securities weak are
Graeculam tibi misi cautionem chirographi mei. Tu me
a-Greekish to-you I-have-sent security of-handwriting my You me
velim de ratione Gallici belli certiorem facias; ego
I-would-wish about the-course of-the-Gallic war more-certain you-make I
enim ignavissimo cuique maximam fidem habeo.
for to-the-most-cowardly each greatest trust have

2 Sed ut ad epistulas tuas redeam, cetera belle; illud
But that to letters your I-may-return the-rest nicely that
miror: quis solet eodem exemplo pluris dare, qui
I-wonder-at who is-wont with-the-same copy several to-send who
sua manu scribit? nam quod in palimpsesto, laudo
with-his-own hand writes for as-to-that in a-palimpsest I-praise
equidem parsimoniam; sed miror quid in illa chartula
for-my-part thrift but I-wonder what on that little-sheet
fuerit quod delere malueris quam non haec scribere
there-was which to-erase you-preferred than not these-things to-write
nisi forte tuas formulas; non enim puto te meas epistulas
unless perhaps your formulas not for I-think you my letters
delere ut reponas tuas. An hoc significas, nihil
to-erase that you-may-put-back yours Or this do-you-indicate nothing
fieri, frigere te, ne chartam quidem tibi suppeditare?
to-be-happening to-be-cold you not paper even to-you to-be-supplied
Iam ista tua culpa est, qui verecundiam tecum extuleris
Now that your fault is who modesty with-you you-carried-off
et non hic nobiscum reliqueris.
and not here with-us you-left

3 Ego te Balbo, cum ad vos proficiscetur, more Romano
I you to-Balbus when to you he-sets-out in-the-manner Roman
commendabo. Tu si intervallum longius erit mearum
will-commend You if the-interval longer will-be of-my

litterarum ne sis admiratus; eram enim afuturus
letters do-not be surprised I-was for going-to-be-away
mense Aprili. Has litteras scripsi in Pomptino, cum
in-the-month of-April This letter I-wrote in the-Pomptine when
ad villam M. Aemili Philemonis devertissem, ex qua
to the-villa of-Marcus Aemilius Philemon I-had-turned-aside from which
iam audieram fremitum clientium meorum, quos quidem
already I-had-heard the-din of-clients my whom indeed
tu mihi conciliasti; nam Ulubris honoris mei causa vim
you for-me won-over for at-Ulubrae of-honor my for-the-sake a-host
maximam ranunculorum se commosse constabat. Cura
very-great of-little-frogs themselves to-have-stirred it-was-agreed Take-care
ut valeas. vi Id. April. de Pomptino.
that you-are-well on-the-sixth before-the-Ides of-April from the-Pomptine
Epistulam tuam, quam accepi ab L. Arruntio, conscidi 4
Letter your which I-received from Lucius Arruntius I-tore-up
innocentem; nihil enim habebat quod non vel in contione
innocent nothing for it-had which not even in an-assembly
recte legi posset. Sed et Arruntius ita te mandasse
properly to-be-read could But both Arruntius so you to-have-instructed
aiebat et tu adscripseras. Verum illud esto; nihil te ad
said and you had-added But that let-it-be nothing you to
me postea scripsisse demiror, praesertim tam novis rebus.
me afterward to-have-written I-wonder especially such new events

Trebatius once asked for an account of Aristotle's Topics, which Cicero half refused; reminded by the city of Velia, which loves Trebatius, he wrote it on his voyage and sends it from Regium, as plain as such a subject allows. If parts seem obscure, no art is learned from books without a teacher and practice, as the civil law shows; reading carefully, Trebatius will understand it, and practice will make the topics come to him unbidden.

Cicero Trebatio s.

Cicero to-Trebatius greeting

1 Vide quanti apud me sis; etsi iure id quidem;
See of-how-much-worth with me you-are although rightly that indeed
non enim te amore vinco. Verum tamen quod praesenti tibi
not for you in-love I-surpass But still what present to-you
prope subnegaram, non tribueram certe id absenti debere
almost I-had-half-refused not I-had-granted certainly that to-you-absent to-owe
non potui. Itaque ut primum Velia navigare coepi, institui
not I-could And-so as first from-Velia to-sail I-began I-undertook
Topica Aristotelea conscribere ab ipsa urbe commonitus
the-Topics Aristotelian to-write-up by the-very city reminded
amantissima tui. Eum librum tibi misi Regio, scriptum
most-loving of-you That book to-you I-have-sent from-Regium written
quam planissime res illa scribi potuit. Sin tibi
as most-plainly matter that to-be-written could But-if to-you
quaedam videbuntur obscuriora, cogitare debebis nullam
certain-things will-seem more-obscure to-reflect you-will-owe no
artem litteris sine interprete et sine aliqua exercitatione
art by-letters without an-interpreter and without some practice
percipi posse. Non longe abieris; num ius civile
to-be-grasped can Not far will-you-go surely-not the-law civil
vestrum ex libris cognosci potest? qui quamquam plurimi
your from books to-be-learned can which although very-many

sunt, doctorem tamen usumque desiderant. Quamquam tu,
they-are a-teacher still and-practice they-need Although you
si attente leges, si saepius, per te omnia consequere ut
if attentively you-read if more-often by yourself all you-will-attain so-that
certe intellegas; ut vero etiam ipsi tibi loci proposita
certainly you-understand that indeed even themselves to-you the-topics proposed
quaestione occurrant exercitatione consequere; in qua quidem
a-question occur by-practice you-will-attain in which indeed
nos te continebimus, si et salvi redierimus et salva
we you will-keep if both safe we-shall-have-returned and safe
ista offenderimus. v K. Sextil. Regio.
those-things will-have-found on-the-fifth before-the-Kalends of-Sextilis at-Regium

VII.20 · VELIA

Velia was dearer to Cicero because it loves Trebatius, and Rufio was missed as one of them. Trebatius should keep his ancestral estates there, and not leave the Hales or the Papirian house, though its lotus tree could be cut for a view. In these times it is good to have a refuge in a city that holds you dear. Cicero carried off Nicon's book on gluttony, which Bassus kept from him; the wind is rising.

Cicero Trebatio s.
Cicero to-Trebatius greeting
Amabilior mihi Velia fuit, quod te ab ea sensi amari. 1
More-lovable to-me Velia has-been because you by it I-felt to-be-loved
Sed quid ego dicam 'te,' quem quis non amat? Rufio
But why I should-say you whom who not loves Rufio
medius fidius tuus ita desiderabatur ut si esset unus
so-help-me god-of-faith your so was-missed as if be-were one
e nobis. Sed te ego non reprehendo qui illum ad
of us But you I not blame who him to

aedificationem tuam traduxeris. Quamquam enim Velia non
building your transferred Although for Velia not
est vilior quam Lupercal, tamen istuc malo quam haec
is cheaper than the-Lupercal still that-there I-prefer than these
omnia. Tu si me audies, quem soles, has paternas
all You if me you-will-hear whom you-are-wont these ancestral
possessiones tenebis (nescio quid enim Velienses verebantur)
estates will-keep I-know-not what for the-Velians feared
neque Haletem, nobilem amnem, relinques nec Papirianam
nor the-Hales noble river will-you-leave nor the-Papirian
domum deseres; quamquam illa quidem habet lotum, a
house will-you-desert although it indeed has a-lotus by
quo etiam advenae teneri solent; quem tamen si excideris,
which even strangers to-be-held are-wont which still if you-cut-down
multum prospexeris.
much you-will-have-gained-a-view

2 Sed in primis opportunum videtur, his praesertim
But among the-first suitable it-seems in-these especially
temporibus, habere perfugium primum eorum urbem quibus
times to-have a-refuge first of-those the-city to-whom
carus sis, deinde tuam domum tuosque agros, eaque
dear you-are next your house and-your fields and-those
remoto, salubri, amoeno loco; idque etiam mea interesse,
in-a-remote healthy pleasant place and-that also me to-concern
mi Trebati, arbitror. Sed valebis meaque negotia videbis
my Trebatius I-judge But you-will-be-well and-my affairs will-see-to
meque dis iuvantibus ante brumam exspectabis.
and-me the-gods helping before midwinter will-expect

3 Ego a Sex. Fadio, Niconis discipulo, librum abstuli
I from Sextus Fadius of-Nicon the-pupil a-book carried-off
'Νίκωνος περὶ πολυφαγίας.' O medicum suavem meque
Nicon's on gluttony O physician delightful and-me

docilem ad hanc disciplinam! Sed Bassus noster me de hoc
teachable for this discipline But Bassus our me about this
libro celavit, te quidem non videtur. Ventus increbrescit.
book kept-in-the-dark you indeed not it-seems The-wind is-rising
Cura ut valeas. xiii K. Sext. Velia.
Take-care that you-are-well on-the-thirteenth before-the-Kalends of-Sextilis at-Velia

VII.21 · SILIUS' CASE

Cicero explained Silius' case to Trebatius, and Silius came to see him. When Cicero said Trebatius thought the wager safe if the praetor had given possession of Turpilia's goods, Silius said Servius denied that a will made by one without the right to make it was a will, and Ofilius agreed; he had not spoken to Trebatius himself. Silius asks to be commended, and Cicero, who has no better or friendlier man than Silius except Trebatius, asks him to go to Silius unasked as soon as he can and promise his help.

Cicero Trebatio s.
Cicero to-Trebatius greeting
Sili causam te docui. Is postea fuit apud me. Cum ei 1
Of-Silius the-case you I-taught He afterward was at me When to-him
dicerem tibi videri sponsionem illam nos sine periculo
I-said to-you to-seem wager that us without risk
facere posse, 'si bonorum Turpiliae possessionem Q.
to-make to-be-able if of-the-goods of-Turpilia possession Quintus
Caepio praetor ex edicto suo mihi dedit,' negare aiebat
Caepio praetor from edict his to-me gave to-deny he-said
Servium tabulas testamenti esse eas, quas instituisset is
Servius tablets of-a-will to-be those which had-drawn-up he
qui factionem testamenti non habuerit; hoc idem Ofilium
who the-right of-a-will not had this same Ofilius

dicere; tecum se locutum negabat meque rogavit ut se
to-say with-you himself spoken he-denied and-me asked that himself
et causam suam tibi commendarem. Nec vir melior, mi
and case his to-you I-should-commend Nor a-man better my
Testa, nec mihi amicior P. Silio quisquam est, te
Testa nor to-me friendlier than-Publius Silius anyone is you
tamen excepto. Gratissimum mihi igitur feceris si ad eum
still excepted Most-pleasing to-me therefore you-will-do if to him
ultro veneris eique pollicitus eris, sed, si me amas,
unasked you-come and-to-him promised you-will-have but if me you-love
quam primum. Hoc te vehementer etiam atque etiam rogo.
as first This you vehemently again and again I-ask

VII.22 · A POINT OF LAW

Trebatius mocked Cicero over the cups for saying it was disputed whether an heir could sue for a theft committed before he inherited. Though he came home drunk and late, Cicero found the passage and sends it copied, to show that Sextus Aelius, Manius Manilius, and Marcus Brutus held what Trebatius said no one held; Cicero still agrees with Scaevola and Testa.

Cicero Trebatio s.
Cicero to-Trebatius greeting
1 Inluseras heri inter scyphos, quod dixeram controversiam
You-had-mocked yesterday among the-cups because I-had-said a-dispute
esse, possetne heres, quod furtum antea factum esset,
to-be whether-could an-heir which theft before done had-been
furti recte agere. Itaque etsi domum bene potus seroque
for-theft rightly to-sue And-so although home well drunk and-late
redieram, tamen id caput, ubi haec controversia est, notavi
I-had-returned still that chapter where this dispute is I-marked

et descriptum tibi misi, ut scires id, quod tu neminem
and copied to-you sent that you-might-know that which you no-one
sensisse dicebas, Sex. Aelium, M'. Manilium, M.
to-have-held said Sextus Aelius Manius Manilius Marcus
Brutum sensisse. Ego tamen Scaevolae et Testae adsentior.
Brutus to-have-held I still with-Scaevola and with-Testa agree

VII.23 · THE STATUES

Fadius Gallus has bought statues for Cicero through Avianius, who generously offers to fix the day of payment. Cicero accepts them, but wishes Damasippus would take them off his hands: Bacchantes are no match for Metellus' Muses, and where would he put them? He buys statues to adorn a palaestra, not a statue of Mars for a man of peace; he would rather have spent the money on a lodge at Tarracina, and wants pictures for his new sitting rooms. As for the house Gallus wants near his, Tullia has tried through Licinia, Cassius' sister, but she dares not move while her husband is in Spain.

Cicero s. d. M. Fadio Gallo.
Cicero greeting says to-Marcus Fadius Gallus
Tantum quod ex Arpinati veneram cum mihi a te 1
Only that from my-Arpinum-villa I-had-come when to-me from you
litterae redditae sunt, ab eodemque accepi Aviani litteras,
a-letter delivered was from and-the-same I-received of-Avianius a-letter
in quibus hoc inerat liberalissimum, nomina se facturum,
in which this was-in most-generous accounts himself would-make
cum venisset, qua ego vellem die. Fac, quaeso, qui ego
when he-had-come on-which I should-wish day Make I-beg who I
sum esse te; estne aut tui pudoris aut nostri primum
am to-be you is-it either of-your modesty or of-mine first
rogare de die, deinde plus annua postulare? Sed essent,
to-ask about the-day next more than-a-year to-demand But would-be

mi Galle, omnia facilia, si et ea mercatus esses quae
my Gallus all-things easy if both those-things bought you-had which
ego desiderabam et ad eam summam quam volueram. Ac
I wanted and up-to that sum which I-had-wished And
tamen ista ipsa, quae te emisse scribis, non solum
still those very-things which you to-have-bought you-write not only
rata mihi erunt sed etiam grata; plane enim intellego
ratified by-me will-be but also pleasing clearly for I-understand
te non modo studio sed etiam amore usum, quae
you not only zeal but also love to-have-used what-things
te delectarint, hominem, ut ego semper iudicavi, in omni
you delighted a-man as I always judged in every
iudicio elegantissimum, quae me digna putaris, coemisse.
judgment most-refined which me worthy you-thought to-have-bought-up
2 Sed velim maneat Damasippus in sententia; prorsus enim
But I-would-wish may-stay Damasippus in his-intent wholly for
ex istis emptionibus nullam desidero. Tu autem ignarus
of those purchases none do-I-want You however ignorant
instituti mei, quanti ego genus omnino signorum omnium
of-practice my at-what-price I the-class altogether of-statues all
non aestimo, tanti ista quattuor aut quinque sumpsisti.
not value at-so-much those four or five you-have-taken
Bacchas istas cum Musis Metelli comparas. Quid simile?
Bacchantes those with the-Muses of-Metellus you-compare What alike
Primum ipsas ego Musas numquam tanti putassem
First themselves I the-Muses never at-so-much would-have-reckoned
atque id fecissem Musis omnibus approbantibus,
and that I-would-have-done with-the-Muses all approving
sed tamen erat aptum bybliothecae studiisque nostris
but still it-was fit for-a-library and-to-pursuits our
congruens; Bacchis vero ubi est apud me locus? At
suiting for-Bacchantes indeed where is with me a-place But

pulchellae sunt. Novi optime et saepe vidi. Nominatim
pretty-little-things they-are I-know very-well and often I-have-seen By-name
tibi signa mihi nota mandassem, si probassem.
to-you statues to-me known I-would-have-commissioned if I-had-approved
Ea enim signa ego emere soleo quae ad similitudinem
Those for statues I to-buy am-wont which to the-likeness
gymnasiorum exornent mihi in palaestra locum. Martis
of-gymnasia may-adorn for-me in the-palaestra a-place of-Mars
vero signum quo mihi pacis auctori? Gaudeo nullum
indeed a-statue for-what to-me of-peace the-advocate I-am-glad no
Saturni signum fuisse; haec enim duo signa putarem
of-Saturn statue to-have-been these for two statues I-would-think
mihi aes alienum attulisse. Mercuri mallem aliquod
to-me money borrowed to-have-brought of-Mercury I-would-prefer some
fuisset; felicius, puto, cum Avianio transigere possemus.
had-been more-luckily I-think with Avianius to-settle we-could
Quod tibi destinaras trapezophorum, si te delectat, 3
What for-yourself you-had-intended the-table-stand if you it-delights
habebis; sin autem sententiam mutasti, ego habebo
you-will-have but-if however mind you-have-changed I will-have
scilicet. Ista quidem summa ne ego multo libentius emerim
of-course That indeed for-sum truly I much more-gladly would-buy
deversorium Tarracinae, ne semper hospiti molestus sim.
a-lodge at-Tarracina lest always to-my-host troublesome I-be
Omnino liberti mei video esse culpam, cui plane res
Altogether of-freedman my I-see to-be the-fault to-whom clearly things
certas mandaram, itemque Iuni, quem puto tibi notum
definite I-had-commissioned and-likewise of-Junius whom I-think to-you known
esse, Aviani familiarem. Exhedria quaedam mihi nova sunt
to-be of-Avianius the-friend Sitting-rooms certain for-me new are
instituta in porticula Tusculani. Ea volebam tabellis
set-up in the-little-portico of-the-Tusculan-villa Those I-wanted with-pictures

ornare; etenim si quid generis istius modi me delectat, pictura
to-adorn for-indeed if anything of-class of-that kind me delights painting
delectat. Sed tamen si ista mihi sunt habenda, certiorem
delights But still if those-things by-me are to-be-kept more-certain
velim me facias ubi sint, quando arcessantur, quo
I-would-wish me you-make where they-are when they-are-fetched with-what
genere vecturae. Si enim Damasippus in sententia non manebit,
kind of-carriage If for Damasippus in his-intent not will-stay
aliquem Pseudodamasippum vel cum iactura reperiemus.
some Pseudo-Damasippus even with loss we-shall-find

4 Quod ad me de domo scribis iterum, iam id ego
As-to-what to me about the-house you-write again now that I
proficiscens mandabam meae Tulliae; ea enim ipsa hora
setting-out commissioned to-my Tullia that for very hour
acceperam tuas litteras. Egeram etiam cum tuo Nicia, quod
I-had-received your letter I-had-dealt also with your Nicias because
is utitur, ut scis, familiariter Cassio. Ut redii autem,
he associates as you-know intimately with-Cassius When I-returned however
prius quam tuas legi has proximas litteras, quaesivi de mea
before than your I-read this latest letter I-asked of my
Tullia quid egisset. Per Liciniam se egisse dicebat
Tullia what she-had-done Through Licinia herself to-have-dealt she-said
(sed opinor Cassium uti non ita multum sorore);
but I-think Cassius to-associate not so much with-his-sister
eam porro negare se audere, cum vir abesset (est
she moreover to-deny herself to-dare since husband was-away has
enim profectus in Hispaniam Dexius), illo et absente
for set-out into Spain Dexius him both absent
et insciente migrare. Est mihi gratissimum tanti a te
and unknowing to-move It-is to-me most-pleasing at-so-much by you
aestimatam consuetudinem vitae victusque nostri, primum
valued the-intimacy of-life and-of-living our first

ut eam domum sumeres, ut non modo prope me
that that house you-should-take so-that not only near me
sed plane mecum habitare posses, deinde ut migrare tanto
but wholly with-me to-live you-could next that to-move so-great
opere festines. Sed ne vivam, si tibi concedo ut eius rei
with-effort you-hurry But not may-I-live if to-you I-yield that of-that thing
tu cupidior sis quam ego sum. Itaque omnia experiar; video
you more-eager be than I am And-so all-things I-will-try I-see
enim quid mea intersit, quid utriusque nostrum. Si quid
for what me concerns what of-each of-us If anything
egero, faciam ut scias. Tu et ad omnia rescribes et
I-shall-have-done I-will-make that you-know You both to all-things will-write-back and
quando te exspectem facies me, si tibi videtur, certiorem.
when you I-should-expect will-make me if to-you it-seems more-certain

VII.24 · TIGELLIUS

Cicero finds traces of Gallus' love everywhere, lately in the matter of Tigellius. Cicero is courted by all Caesar's intimates but Tigellius, and counts it a gain not to bear a man more pestilent than his country, already knocked down by Calvus' Hipponactean verses. Tigellius is angry because Cicero could not defend his grandfather Phamea on a day already fixed for Sestius' trial: Sardinians for sale, Cicero calls them, each worse than the next. He asks Gallus to send his Cato.

M. Cicero s. d. M. Fadio Gallo.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Marcus Fadius Gallus
Amoris quidem tui, quoquo me verti, vestigia, vel 1
Of-love indeed your wherever myself I-have-turned traces for-instance
proxime de Tigellio; sensi enim ex litteris tuis valde
lately about Tigellius I-perceived for from letter your greatly
te laborasse. Amo igitur voluntatem. Sed pauca de
you to-have-labored I-love therefore the-goodwill But a-few-words about

re. Cipius opinor, olim: 'Non omnibus dormio.' Sic
the-matter Cipius I-think once Not for-all I-sleep So
ego non omnibus, mi Galle, servio. Etsi quae est haec
I not to-all my Gallus am-a-slave Although what is this
servitus? Olim cum regnare existimabamur, non tam ab
slavery Once when to-reign we-were-thought not so-much by
ullis quam hoc tempore observor a familiarissimis Caesaris
any as at-this time I-am-courted by the-closest of-Caesar
omnibus praeter istum. Id ego in lucris pono, non ferre
all except that-one That I among gains put not to-bear
hominem pestilentiorem patria sua; eumque addictum
a-man more-pestilent than-country his-own and-him knocked-down
iam totum puto esse Calvi Licini Hipponacteo praeconio.
already whole I-think to-be of-Calvus Licinius by-Hipponactean auction-cry
2 At vide quid suscenseat. Phameae causam receperam ipsius
But see why he-is-angry of-Phamea the-case I-had-undertaken his-own
quidem causa; erat enim mihi sane familiaris. Is ad me
indeed for-the-sake he-was for to-me very intimate He to me
venit dixitque iudicem sibi operam dare constituisse eo
came and-said the-judge for-him effort to-give to-have-fixed on-that
ipso die quo de P. Sestio in consilium iri
very day on-which about Publius Sestius into deliberation to-be-gone
necesse erat. Respondi nullo modo me facere posse; quem
necessary it-was I-replied in-no way me to-do to-be-able whatever
vellet alium diem si sumpsisset, me ei non defuturum.
he-wished other day if he-had-taken me to-him not going-to-fail
Ille autem, qui sciret se nepotem bellum tibicinem
He however who knew himself a-grandson pretty flute-player
habere et sat bonum unctorem, discessit a me, ut mi
to-have and enough good anointer left from me as to-me
videbatur, iratior. Habes 'Sardos venalis alium alio
it-seemed rather-angry You-have Sardinians for-sale one than-another

nequiorem.' Cognosti meam causam et istius salaconis
more-worthless You-have-learned my case and of-that braggart
iniquitatem. 'Catonem' tuum mihi mitte; cupio enim legere.
the-unfairness Cato your to-me send I-desire for to-read
Me adhuc non legisse turpe utrique nostrum est.
Me as-yet not to-have-read disgraceful for-each of-us is

VII.25 · THE MASTER IS HERE

Gallus need not grieve over the torn-up letter: a copy is safe at home. Cicero welcomes his warning and asks him always to give it, since Gallus seems to fear they may laugh a Sardonic laugh. But hands off the picture: the master is here sooner than expected, and Cicero fears for the Catonians. The best part of Gallus' letter is from that passage on; let him keep it secret, even from Apella. Only the two of them write so; Gallus should press on, never a nail's breadth from the pen, the craftsman of speech.

Cicero s. d. M. Fadio Gallo.
Cicero greeting says to-Marcus Fadius Gallus
Quod epistulam conscissam doles, noli laborare, salva est; 1
That the-letter torn-up you-grieve do-not trouble safe it-is
domo petes, cum libebit. Quod autem me mones,
from-home you-will-fetch-it when it-will-please That however me you-warn
valde gratum est, idque ut semper facias rogo; videris
very pleasing it-is and-that that always you-do I-ask you-seem
enim mihi vereri, nisi istum habuerimus, rideamus γέλωτα
for to-me to-fear unless him we-shall-have-had we-may-laugh a-laugh
σαρδάνιον. Sed heus tu, manum de tabula! magister adest
sardonic But hey you hand off the-picture the-master is-here
citius quam putaramus; vereor ne in catomum Catonianos.
sooner than we-had-thought I-fear lest into a-flogging the-Catonians

2 Mi Galle, cave putes quicquam melius quam epistulae tuae
My Gallus beware you-think anything better than of-letter your
partem ab eo loco: 'Cetera labuntur.' Secreto hoc audi,
the-part from that place The-rest slip-away In-secret this hear
tecum habeto, ne Apellae quidem, liberto tuo, dixeris. Praeter
with-you keep-it not to-Apella even freedman your say-it Besides
duo nos loquitur isto modo nemo; bene malene videro,
two us speaks in-that way no-one well or-badly I-shall-see
sed, quicquid est, nostrum est. Urge igitur nec 'transversum
but whatever it-is ours it-is Press-on therefore nor transverse
unguem,' quod aiunt, a stilo; is enim est dicendi opifex.
a-nail as they-say from the-pen it for is of-speaking the-craftsman
Atque equidem aliquantum iam etiam noctis adsumo.
And for-my-part a-good-deal now even of-night I-take-up

VII.26 · THE SUMPTUARY LAW

For ten days Cicero has suffered from his bowels, and since he had no fever he could not convince those who wanted his services that he was ill, so he fled to his Tusculan villa and fasted two days without water. He dreaded dysentery, the complaint the Stoics mock Epicurus for saying he suffered, but a change of place, rest of mind, or the disease's waning has helped. The cause was the sumptuary law: the fine men season mushrooms and greens, which the law exempts, so deliciously that at Lentulus' augural dinner he was seized by diarrhea. He who abstained easily from oysters and lampreys was undone by beet and mallow.

Cicero s. d. Gallo.
Cicero greeting says to-Gallus
1 Cum decimum iam diem graviter ex intestinis laborarem
When the-tenth now day severely from bowels I-was-suffering
neque iis qui mea opera uti volebant me probarem
nor to-those who my help to-use wished myself I-could-prove

non valere, quia febrim non haberem, fugi in Tusculanum,
not to-be-well because a-fever not I-had I-fled into my-Tusculan-villa
cum quidem biduum ita ieiunus fuissem ut ne aquam
when indeed two-days so fasting I-had-been that not water
quidem gustarem. Itaque confectus languore et fame
even I-tasted And-so worn-out by-weakness and by-hunger
magis tuum officium desideravi quam a te requiri putavi
rather your service I-missed than by you to-be-required I-thought
meum. Ego autem quom omnis morbos reformido tum in
my-own I however while all diseases I-dread especially in
quo Epicurum tuum Stoici male accipiunt, quia dicat
the-one-which Epicurus your the-Stoics badly treat because he-says
'στραγγουρικὰ καὶ δυσεντερικὰ πάθη' sibi molesta esse;
of-strangury and of-dysentery afflictions to-himself troublesome to-be
quorum alterum morbum edacitatis esse putant, alterum etiam
of-which the-one disease of-gluttony to-be they-think the-other even
turpioris intemperantiae. Sane δυσεντερίαν pertimueram;
of-a-more-shameful intemperance Indeed dysentery I-had-dreaded
sed visa est mihi vel loci mutatio vel animi etiam relaxatio
but seemed has to-me either of-place the-change or of-mind also the-relaxing
vel ipsa fortasse iam senescentis morbi remissio profuisse.
or the-very perhaps now of-the-aging disease abatement to-have-helped
Ac tamen ne mirere unde hoc acciderit quo modove 2
And still lest you-wonder whence this happened in-what or-way
commiserim, lex sumptuaria quae videtur λιτότητα
I-committed-it the-law sumptuary which seems simplicity
attulisse ea mihi fraudi fuit. Nam dum volunt isti
to-have-brought that to-me for-harm was For while wish those
lauti terra nata, quae lege excepta sunt, in honorem
fine-men from-earth born-things which by-law excepted are into honor
adducere, fungos, helvellas, herbas omnis ita condiunt ut
to-bring mushrooms potherbs greens all so they-season that

nihil possit esse suavius. In eas cum incidissem in
nothing can to-be more-delicious On those when I-had-fallen at
cena augurali apud Lentulum, tanta me διάρροια adripuit
the-dinner augural at Lentulus' such me diarrhea seized
ut hodie primum videatur coepisse consistere. Ita ego,
that today first it-seems to-have-begun to-stop So I
qui me ostreis et murenis facile abstinebam, a beta et
who myself from-oysters and lampreys easily was-abstaining by beet and
a malva deceptus sum. Posthac igitur erimus cautiores.
by mallow deceived I-have-been Hereafter therefore we-shall-be more-cautious
Tu tamen cum audisses ab Anicio (vidit enim me
You still when you-had-heard from Anicius he-saw for me
nauseantem), non modo mittendi causam iustam habuisti
vomiting not only of-sending reason just you-had
sed etiam visendi. Ego hic cogito commorari quoad me
but also of-visiting I here I-intend to-stay until myself
reficiam, nam et viris et corpus amisi; sed si morbum
I-restore for both strength and body I-have-lost but if the-disease
depulero, facile, ut spero, illa revocabo.
I-shall-have-driven-off easily as I-hope those I-will-recover

VII.27 · TO GALLUS, SHARPLY

Gallus has no right to accuse Cicero, and if he had, should not. Gallus claims he courted Cicero in his consulship and says Caesar will restore him; he says many things that no one believes, among them that he sought the tribunate for Cicero's sake; would he were always tribune, so he would not need someone to veto. He says Cicero does not dare speak his mind, though Cicero answered his shameless request bravely enough. If Gallus' reports were false, Cicero owes him nothing; if true, he knows best what the Roman people owes Cicero.

M. Cicero s. d. Gallo.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Gallus

Miror cur me accuses, cum tibi id facere non liceat. 1

I-wonder why me you-accuse when for-you that to-do not it-is-allowed

Quod si liceret, tamen non debebas. 'Ego enim te

But if it-were-allowed still not you-ought I for you

in consulatu observaram,' et ais fore ut te Caesar

in the-consulship I-had-courted and you-say it-will-be that you Caesar

restituat. Multa tu quidem dicis, sed tibi nemo credit.

restores Many-things you indeed say but you no-one believes

Tribunatum plebei dicis te mea causa petisse. Utinam

The-tribunate of-the-plebs you-say you for-my sake to-have-sought Would-that

semper esses tribunus! intercessorem non quaereres.

always you-were tribune an-interposer-of-veto not you-would-seek

Negas me audere quod sentiam dicere: quasi tibi, cum

You-say-not me to-dare what I-feel to-say as-if to-you when

impudenter me rogares, parum fortiter responderim.

shamelessly me you-asked too-little bravely I-replied

Haec tibi scripsi, ut isto ipso in genere, in quo aliquid 2

These-things to-you I-wrote that that very in class in which something

posse vis, te nihil esse cognosceres. Quod si humaniter

to-be-able you-wish you nothing to-be you-might-learn But if courteously

mecum questus esses, libenter tibi me et facile purgassem;

with-me complained you-had gladly to-you myself and easily I-would-have-cleared

non enim ingrata mihi sunt quae fecisti, sed quae

not for unwelcome to-me are the-things-which you-did but what

scripsisti, molesta. Me autem, propter quem ceteri liberi sunt,

you-wrote vexing Me however because-of whom the-rest free are

tibi liberum non visum demiror. Nam si falsa fuerunt

to-you free not to-have-seemed I-wonder For if false were

quae tu ad me, ut ais, 'detulisti,' quod tibi ego debeo?
the-things-which you to me as you-say reported what to-you I owe
si vera, tu es optimus testis quid mihi p. R. debeat.
if true you are the-best witness what to-me the-people Roman owes

VII.28 · TO CURIUS AT PATRAE

Cicero once thought Curius foolish to live with those in Greece rather than in Rome; now he seems wise and even happy to have gone, though no thinking man can be happy now. Cicero gets the same by another way: after the morning callers he hides in his library and writes. He mourned the state then and mourns it still, fallen so that no hope remains, though the fault is not in him who holds power; Curius left these things wisely, if by design, happily, if by chance.

M. Cicero s. d. Curio.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Curius
1 Memini cum mihi desipere videbare, quod cum istis potius
I-remember when to-me to-be-foolish you-seemed because with those rather
viveres quam nobiscum. Erat enim multo domicilium huius
you-lived than with-us It-was for much the-dwelling of-this
urbis, cum quidem haec urbs, aptius humanitati et
city when indeed this city more-fitting to-the-culture and
suavitati tuae quam tota Peloponnesus, nedum Patrae.
charm your than the-whole Peloponnese let-alone Patrae
Nunc contra et vidisse mihi multum videris, cum
Now on-the-contrary both to-have-seen to-me much you-seem when
prope desperatis his rebus te in Graeciam contulisti,
almost despaired-of these affairs yourself into Greece you-betook
et hoc tempore non solum sapiens, qui hinc absis,
and at-this time not only wise who from-here you-are-away

sed etiam beatus. Quamquam quis, qui aliquid sapiat, nunc
but also happy Although who who anything knows now
esse beatus potest?
to-be happy can
Sed quod tu cui licebat, pedibus es consecutus ut 2
But what you to-whom it-was-allowed on-foot have attained that
ibi esses, 'ubi nec Pelopidarum' (nosti cetera), nos
there you-should-be where neither of-the-Pelopidae you-know the-rest we
idem prope modum consequimur alia ratione. Cum
the-same almost in-measure attain by-another method When
enim salutationi nos dedimus amicorum, quae fit
for to-the-morning-call ourselves we-have-given of-friends which happens
hoc etiam frequentius quam solebat, quod quasi avem
this even more-crowded than it-used-to because as-if a-bird
albam videntur bene sentientem civem videre, abdo me
white they-seem well thinking a-citizen to-see I-hide myself
in bibliothecam. Itaque opera efficio tanta quanta fortasse
in the-library And-so works I-produce as-great as perhaps
tu senties; intellexi enim ex tuo sermone quodam, cum
you will-perceive I-understood for from your talk a-certain when
meam maestitiam et desperationem accusares domi tuae,
my gloom and despair you-were-blaming at-home your
discere te ex meis libris animum meum desiderare.
to-learn you from my books spirit my to-miss
Sed me hercule et tum rem publicam lugebam, quae 3
But so-help-me Hercules both then the-thing public I-was-mourning which
non solum suis erga me sed etiam meis erga se beneficiis
not only by-its-own toward me but also by-my toward it services
erat mihi vita mea carior, et hoc tempore, quamquam me
was to-me than-life my dearer and at-this time although me
non ratio solum consolatur, quae plurimum debet valere, sed
not reason only consoles which most ought to-avail but

etiam dies, quae stultis quoque mederi solet, tamen doleo ita
also time which the-foolish also to-heal is-wont still I-grieve so
rem communem esse dilapsam ut ne spes quidem melius
the-thing common to-be fallen-apart that not hope even better
aliquando fore relinquatur. Nec vero nunc quidem culpa in
ever to-be is-left Nor indeed now even the-fault in
eo est in cuius potestate omnia sunt (nisi forte id ipsum
him is in whose power all-things are unless perhaps that very-thing
esse non debuit), sed alia casu, alia etiam nostra
to-be not it-ought but some-things by-chance others also by-our-own
culpa sic acciderunt ut de praeteritis non sit querendum.
fault so have-happened that about the-past not is to-be-complained-of
Reliquam spem nullam video. Qua re ad prima redeo:
Remaining hope none I-see By-which thing to the-beginning I-return
Sapienter haec reliquisti, si consilio, feliciter, si casu.
Wisely these-things you-left if by-design happily if by-chance

VII.29 · CURIUS WRITES

Curius writes from Patrae: he is Cicero's in use and Atticus' in ownership, so the usufruct is Cicero's and the property Atticus'. He owes all he is and has to Cicero, and asks him to commend him to Sulpicius' successor so that he may come home in spring. Atticus must not see the letter, so that he may think Curius a good man who does not whitewash two walls from one pot. He greets Tiro.

Curius M. Ciceroni suo s.
Curius to-Marcus Cicero his-own greeting
1 S. v. b.; sum enim χρήσει μὲν tuus,
If you-are-well it-is-well I-am for in-use on-the-one-hand yours
κτήσει δὲ Attici nostri. Ergo fructus est tuus,
in-ownership but of-Atticus our Therefore the-usufruct is yours

mancipium illius; quod quidem si inter senes comptionalis
the-property his which indeed if among old-men bought-up-in-lots
venale proscripserit, egerit non multum. At illa nostra
for-sale he-advertises he-will-have-done not much But that our
praedicatio quanti est, nos, quod simus, quod habeamus,
boast of-what-worth is-it we that we-are that we-have
quod homines existimemur, id omne abs te habere! Qua
that men we-are-reckoned that all from you to-have By-which
re, Cicero mi, persevera constanter nos conservare et
thing Cicero my persevere steadily us to-preserve and
Sulpici successori nos de meliore nota commenda, quo
to-Sulpicius' successor us with a-better mark commend whereby
facilius tuis praeceptis obtemperare possimus teque ad ver
more-easily your instructions to-obey we-can and-you at spring
libentes videre et nostra refigere deportareque tuto possimus.
gladly to-see and our-things to-unfix and-carry-home safely we-can
Sed, amice magne, noli hanc epistulam Attico ostendere. 2
But friend great do-not this letter to-Atticus show
Sine eum errare et putare me virum bonum esse nec
Let him be-wrong and think me a-man good to-be nor
solere duo parietes de eadem fidelia dealbare. Ergo,
to-be-wont two walls out-of the-same pot to-whitewash Therefore
patrone mi, bene vale Tironemque meum saluta nostris
patron my well fare and-Tiro my greet with-our
verbis. Data a. d. iiii K. Nov.
words Given on-the day fourth before-the-Kalends of-November

Cicero longs to fly from a Rome where he must see what he would rather hear of. At the quaestorian elections, when the death of the consul Quintus Maximus was announced, his chair was removed, and Caesar, who had taken the auspices for the tribal assembly, held the centuriate and declared Caninius consul until the Kalends of January, the next morning: in his consulship no one lunched, and nothing bad was done, so vigilant was he that he never slept. Cicero takes refuge in philosophy and in Atticus, content with the usufruct of their shared friend, and has written to Acilius for Curius.

Cicero Curio s. d.

Cicero to-Curius greeting says

1 Ego vero iam te nec hortor nec rogo ut domum redeas;
I indeed now you neither urge nor ask that home you-return
quin hinc ipse evolare cupio et aliquo pervenire, 'ubi nec
nay from-here myself to-fly-away I-desire and somewhere to-arrive where neither
Pelopidarum nomen nec facta audiam.' Incredibile est quam
of-the-Pelopidae the-name nor deeds I-may-hear Incredible it-is how
turpiter mihi facere videar, qui his rebus intersim. Ne
basely to-myself to-act I-seem who in-these affairs take-part Truly
tu videris multo ante providisse quid impenderet, tum cum
you seem much before to-have-foreseen what was-impending then when
hinc profugisti. Quamquam haec etiam auditu acerba
from-here you-fled Although these-things even in-the-hearing bitter
sunt, tamen audire tolerabilius est quam videre. In campo
are still to-hear more-bearable it-is than to-see In the-Campus
certe non fuisti, cum hora secunda comitiis quaestoriis
certainly not you-were when at-hour second the-elections for-quaestor
institutis sella Q. Maximi, quem illi consulem esse
having-been-set-up the-chair of-Quintus Maximus whom they consul to-be
dicebant, posita esset; quo mortuo nuntiato sella sublata
said placed had-been who dead being-announced the-chair removed

est. Ille autem, qui comitiis tributis esset auspicatus,
was He however who for-the-elections tribal had taken-the-auspices
centuriata habuit, consulem hora septima renuntiavit, qui
the-centuriate held a-consul at-hour seventh he-declared who
usque ad K. Ian. esset quae erant futurae mane
up to the-Kalends of-January should-be which were going-to-be in-the-morning
postridie. Ita Caninio consule scito neminem prandisse. Nihil
next-day So with-Caninius consul know no-one to-have-lunched Nothing
tamen eo consule mali factum est; fuit enim mirifica
still with-that consul bad done has-been he-was for of-wonderful
vigilantia, qui suo toto consulatu somnum non viderit.
vigilance who in-his whole consulship sleep not saw
Haec tibi ridicula videntur; non enim ades. Quae 2
These-things to-you laughable seem not for you-are-here Which-things
si videres, lacrimas non teneres. Quid, si cetera scribam?
if you-saw tears not you-would-hold What if the-rest I-should-write
sunt enim innumerabilia generis eiusdem; quae quidem ego
they-are for countless of-the-kind same which indeed I
non ferrem, nisi me in philosophiae portum contulissem
not would-bear unless myself into of-philosophy the-harbor I-had-brought
et nisi haberem socium studiorum meorum Atticum
and unless I-had a-partner of-studies my Atticus
nostrum. Cuius quoniam proprium te esse scribis mancipio
our Whose since the-property you to-be you-write by-purchase
et nexo, meum autem usu et fructu, contentus isto
and by-bond mine however by-use and usufruct content with-that
sum. Id enim est cuiusque proprium, quo quisque fruitur
I-am That for is of-each-man the-property which each enjoys
atque utitur. Sed haec alias pluribus.
and uses But these-things another-time more-fully

3 Acilius, qui in Graeciam cum legionibus missus est,
Acilius who into Greece with the-legions sent has-been
maximo meo beneficiost (bis enim est a me iudicio
by-very-great my service-is twice for he-has by me in-a-trial
capitis rebus salvis defensus) et est homo non ingratus
capital with-affairs safe been-defended and he-is a-man not ungrateful
meque vehementer observat. Ad eum de te diligentissime
and-me vehemently courts To him about you most-carefully
scripsi eamque epistulam cum hac epistula coniunxi. Quam
I-wrote and-that letter with this letter I-have-joined Which
ille quo modo acceperit et quid tibi pollicitus sit
he in-what way received and what to-you promised he-has
velim ad me scribas.
I-would-wish to me you-write

VII.31 · OLD WIT DRIED UP

Curius' letter shows he loves Cicero and knows he is dear to him, so they should vie in services. He did not need Cicero's letter to Acilius, nor Sulpicius' help, his affairs being so small, he says, that they have neither head nor feet; Cicero wishes they had feet to bring him home. The old wit of Rome has dried up, so that Atticus may say that only a few keep the ancient Attic glory; Atticus is Curius' successor and Cicero is Atticus', so Curius should come lest the seed of wit perish with the state.

Cicero Curio s. d.
Cicero to-Curius greeting says
1 Facile perspexi ex tuis litteris, quod semper studui, et
Easily I-perceived from your letter what always I-have-striven-for both
me a te plurimi fieri et te intellegere quam mihi
me by you at-the-highest to-be-valued and you to-understand how to-me

carus esses. Quod quoniam uterque nostrum consecutus
dear you-were Which since each of-us attained
est, reliquum est ut officiis certemus inter nos; quibus
has remaining it-is that in-services we-compete among ourselves in-which
aequo animo vel vincam te vel vincar abs te. Acilio
with-even mind either I-shall-beat you or be-beaten by you to-Acilius
non fuisse necesse meas dari litteras facile patior;
not to-have-been necessary my to-be-given letter easily I-allow
Sulpici tibi operam intellego ex tuis litteris non multum 2
of-Sulpicius for-you the-help I-understand from your letter not much
opus fuisse propter tuas res ita contractas ut, quem ad
need to-have-been because-of your affairs so contracted that in-what to
modum scribis, 'nec caput nec pedes.' Equidem vellem
manner you-write neither head nor feet For-my-part I-would-wish
uti pedes haberent, ut aliquando redires. Vides enim
that feet they-had so-that some-time you-might-return You-see for
exaruisse iam veterem urbanitatem, ut Pomponius
to-have-dried-up now the-old wit so-that Pomponius
noster suo iure possit dicere:
our by-his-own right could say

'Nisi nos pauci retineamus gloriam antiquam Atticam.'
Unless we few retain the-glory ancient Attic

Ergo is tibi, nos ei succedimus. Veni igitur, quaeso,
Therefore he to-you we to-him succeed Come therefore I-beg
ne tamen semen urbanitatis una cum re p. intereat.
lest still the-seed of-wit together with the-thing public perish

Volumnius wrote without his first name, so that Cicero at first thought the letter from the senator Volumnius. He complains that Volumnius, his agent, lets the possession of his salt-works go undefended: every man's jokes are fathered on Cicero, even Sestius'. He had hoped his own were marked well enough to be known, but in a city where nothing is graceless enough to seem charming to no one, Volumnius must swear to which are not his. Cicero wants their friend's tribunate weighty, and asks Volumnius to write of the city and to make Dolabella wholly his.

M. Cicero s. d. Volumnio.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Volumnius

1 Quod sine praenomine familiariter, ut debebas, ad me
That without first-name familiarly as you-ought to me
epistulam misisti, primum addubitavi an a Volumnio
a-letter you-sent first I-hesitated whether from Volumnius
senatore esset, quocum mihi est magnus usus; deinde
the-senator it-was with-whom to-me is great intercourse next
εὐτραπελία litterarum fecit ut intellegerem tuas esse.
the-wit of-the-letter made that I-understood yours to-be
Quibus in litteris omnia mihi periucunda fuerunt praeter
Which in letter all to-me very-delightful were except
illud, quod parum diligenter possessio salinarum mearum a
that that too-little carefully the-possession of-salt-works my by
te procuratore defenditur. Ais enim, ut ego discesserim,
you as-agent is-defended You-say for since I left
omnia omnium dicta, in his etiam Sestiana, in me
all of-all-men sayings among these even Sestius' upon me
conferri. Quid? tu id pateris? non me defendis, non
to-be-fathered What you that allow not me you-defend not

resistis? Equidem sperabam ita notata me reliquisse genera
you-resist For-my-part I-hoped so marked me to-have-left the-kinds
dictorum meorum, ut cognosci sua sponte possent;
of-sayings my that to-be-recognized of-their-own accord they-could
sed quoniam tanta faex est in urbe ut nihil tam sit 2
but since such dregs is in the-city that nothing so is
ἀκύθηρον quod non alicui venustum esse videatur, pugna,
graceless which not to-someone charming to-be may-seem fight
si me amas, nisi acuta ἀμφιβολία, nisi elegans ὑπερβολή,
if me you-love unless a-sharp double-meaning unless an-elegant hyperbole
nisi παράγραμμα bellum, nisi ridiculum παρὰ προσδοκίαν,
unless a-pun pretty unless a-joke against expectation
nisi cetera, quae sunt a me in secundo libro 'de oratore'
unless the-rest which are by me in the-second book on the-orator
per Antoni personam disputata de ridiculis, ἔντεχνα
through of-Antonius the-character discussed about jokes artful
et arguta apparebunt, ut sacramento contendas mea non
and witty will-appear that by-oath you-maintain mine not
esse. Nam de iudiciis quod quereris, multo laboro minus.
to-be For about the-courts what you-complain much I-trouble less
Trahantur per me pedibus omnes rei, sit vel Selius
Let-be-dragged through me by-the-feet all defendants let-be even Selius
tam eloquens ut possit probare se liberum; non laboro;
so eloquent that he-can prove himself free not I-trouble
urbanitatis possessionem, amabo, quibusvis interdictis
of-wit the-possession please by-any-whatever interdicts
defendamus; in qua te unum metuo, contemno ceteros.
let-us-defend in which you alone I-fear I-despise the-rest
Derideri te putas; nunc demum intellego te sapere.
To-be-laughed-at you think now at-last I-understand you to-be-wise

3 Sed me hercules extra iocum: valde mihi tuae litterae
But so-help-me Hercules outside joking very to-me your letter
facetae elegantesque visae sunt. Illa quamvis ridicula
witty and-elegant seemed have Those-things however laughable
essent, sicut erant, mihi tamen risum non moverunt; cupio
they-were as they-were to-me still laughter not moved I-desire
enim nostrum illum amicum in tribunatu quam plurimum
for our that friend in the-tribunate as most
habere gravitatis, id cum ipsius causa (est mihi, ut
to-have of-weight that both for-his-own sake he-is to-me as
scis, in amoribus) tum me hercule etiam rei
you-know among my-loves and so-help-me Hercules also of-the-thing
p.; quam quidem, quamvis in me ingrata sit, amare
public which indeed however toward me ungrateful it-be to-love
non desinam. Tu, mi Volumni, quoniam et instituisti et
not I-shall-cease You my Volumnius since both you-have-begun and
mihi vides esse gratum, scribe ad me quam saepissime
to-me you-see to-be pleasing write to me as most-often
de rebus urbanis, de re p. Iucundus est mihi
about affairs of-the-city about the-thing public Pleasant is to-me
sermo litterarum tuarum. Praeterea Dolabellam, quem ego
the-talk of-letters your Besides Dolabella whom I
perspicio et iudico cupidissimum esse atque amantissimum
perceive and judge most-eager to-be and most-loving
mei, cohortare et confirma et redde plane meum, non
of-me encourage and strengthen and render wholly mine not
me hercule quo quicquam desit; sed quia valde ei
so-help-me Hercules because anything is-lacking but because greatly to-him
cupio, non videor nimium laborare.
I-wish not I-seem too-much to-labor

Volumnius loses nothing by missing Cicero's declamations; Cicero either is nothing or displeases himself, his old companions gone, so that, like Accius' Philoctetes, his weapons are spent on feathers, not arms. All will be more cheerful when Volumnius comes, though he comes into a clash of business. Cassius and Dolabella share Cicero's pursuits and need Volumnius' filed and polished judgment. Cicero has resolved, if Caesar allows, to lay down his old role and hide in letters and honorable leisure. Volumnius need not have feared that a longer letter would be read to others; his longest will be the most welcome.

M. Cicero s. d. Volumnio.

Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Volumnius

Quod declamationibus nostris cares, damni nihil facis; 1

That declamations our you-lack of-loss nothing you-suffer

quod Hirtio invideres, nisi eum amares non erat

that Hirtius you-would-envy unless him you-loved not there-was

causa invidendi, nisi forte ipsius eloquentiae magis

cause of-envying unless perhaps his-own eloquence rather

quam quod me audiret invideres. Nos enim plane,

than that me he-heard you-envied We for wholly

mi suavissime Volumni, aut nihil sumus aut nobis

my most-delightful Volumnius either nothing are or to-us

quidem ipsis displicemus gregalibus illis, quibus te

indeed ourselves are-displeasing comrades those by-whom you

plaudente vigebamus, amissis, ut etiam, si quando

applauding we-flourished lost so-that even if ever

aliquid dignum nostro nomine emisimus, ingemescamus,

something worthy of-our name we-have-put-out we-groan

quod haec 'pinnigero, non armigero in corpore tela

because these on-a-feather-bearing not arms-bearing in body weapons

exerceantur,' ut ait Philoctetes apud Accium, 'abiecta
are-plied as says Philoctetes in Accius cast-off
gloria.'
glory

2 Sed tamen omnia mihi erunt, si tu veneris, hilariora;
But still all-things to-me will-be if you will-have-come more-cheerful
quamquam venis, ut ipse intellegis, in maximarum
although you-come as yourself you-understand into of-very-great
quasi concursum occupationum. Quas si, ut volumus,
as-it-were a-clash of-businesses Which if as we-wish
exceperimus, ego vero multam salutem et foro
we-shall-have-taken-on I indeed much greeting both to-the-forum
dicam et curiae vivamque tecum multum et cum
will-say and to-the-senate-house and-I-shall-live with-you much and with
communibus nostris amatoribus. Nam et Cassius tuus
common our admirers For both Cassius your
et Dolabella noster vel potius uterque noster studiis
and Dolabella our or rather each ours by-pursuits
iisdem tenentur et meis aequissimis utuntur auribus.
the-same are-held and my most-fair use ears
Opus est huc limatulo et polito tuo iudicio et
Need there-is here of-a-nicely-filed and polished your judgment and
illis interioribus litteris, quibus saepe verecundiorem
of-those deeper letters by-which often more-diffident
me in loquendo facis. Mihi enim iudicatum est,
me in speaking you-make By-me for judged it-has-been
si modo hoc Caesar aut patietur aut volet, deponere
if only this Caesar either will-allow or will-wish to-lay-down
illam iam personam, in qua me saepe illi ipsi
that now role in which myself often to-him himself
probavi, ac me totum in litteras abdere tecumque
I-proved and myself whole into letters to-hide and-with-you

et cum ceteris earum studiosis honestissimo otio
and with the-other of-them devotees in-most-honorable leisure
perfrui. Tu vellem ne veritus esses ne pluribus
to-enjoy-fully You I-would-wish not feared you-had lest to-more
legerem tuas litteras, si mihi, quem ad modum
I-should-read your letter if to-me in-what to manner
scribis, longiores forte misisses, ac velim posthac sic
you-write longer perhaps you-had-sent and I-would-wish hereafter so
statuas, tuas mihi litteras longissimas quasque gratissimas
you-decide your to-me letters the-longest each most-welcome
fore.
to-be

BOOK VIII

VIII.1 · CAELIUS' NEWS SERVICE

Caelius, as he promised, has hired a man to write up all the city's affairs, senate decrees, edicts, stories, and rumors, so thoroughly that he fears the volume may seem too wordy; he hopes Cicero will not call it arrogance that he delegated the labor. The rumors of the Transpadanes' assemblies died out at Cumae, and Marcellus has put off the Gallic provinces to the Kalends of June. Caelius asks how Pompey seemed to Cicero. Rumors say Caesar lost his cavalry and is besieged among the Bellovaci, and Rome said Cicero had been killed by Quintus Pompeius; Plancus is at Ravenna; Cicero's political books are in everyone's hands.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

Quod tibi discedens pollicitus sum me omnis res urbanas 1

What to-you departing promised I-have me all affairs of-the-city

diligentissime tibi perscripturum, data opera paravi

most-carefully to-you going-to-write-out given effort I-have-procured

qui sic omnia persequeretur, ut verear ne tibi nimium

one-who so all-things should-follow-up that I-fear lest to-you too

arguta haec sedulitas videatur; tametsi tu scio quam sis

wordy this diligence may-seem although you I-know how you-are

curiosus et quam omnibus peregrinantibus gratum sit

inquisitive and how to-all being-abroad pleasing it-is

minimarum quoque rerum, quae domi gerantur, fieri

of-the-smallest also things which at-home are-done to-be-made

certiores. Tamen in hoc te deprecor ne meum hoc

more-certain Still in this you I-entreat lest my this

officium adrogantiae condemnes, quod hunc laborem alteri

service of-arrogance you-condemn that this labor to-another

delegavi, non quin mihi suavissimum sit et occupato et

I-have-delegated not that to-me most-delightful it-is both busy and

ad litteras scribendas, ut tu nosti, pigerrimo tuae memoriae
for letters to-be-written as you know most-lazy to-your memory
dare operam, sed ipsum volumen, quod tibi misi, facile,
to-give effort but the-very volume which to-you I-have-sent easily
ut ego arbitror, me excusat. Nescio quoius oti esset non
as I think me excuses I-know-not of-whose leisure it-would-be not
modo perscribere haec sed omnino animadvertere; omnia
only to-write-out these-things but at-all to-notice all
enim sunt ibi senatus consulta, edicta, fabulae, rumores.
for are there of-the-senate decrees edicts stories rumors
Quod exemplum si forte minus te delectarit, ne molestiam
Which model if perhaps less you will-have-delighted lest annoyance
tibi cum impensa mea exhibeam, fac me certiorem.
to-you with expense my I-cause make me more-certain

2 Si quid in re p. maius actum erit, quod isti
If anything in the-thing public greater done will-have-been which those
operarii minus commode persequi possint, et quem ad
hirelings less conveniently to-follow-up can both in-what to
modum actum sit et quae existimatio secuta quaeque
manner done it-was and what opinion followed and-what
de eo spes sit diligenter tibi perscribemus. Ut nunc
about it hope there-is carefully to-you we-will-write-out As now
est, nulla magno opere exspectatio est. Nam et illi
it-is no in-great measure expectation is For both those
rumores de comitiis Transpadanorum Cumarum tenus
rumors about the-assemblies of-the-Transpadanes Cumae as-far-as
caluerunt, Romam cum venissem, ne tenuissimam quidem
were-hot to-Rome when I-had-come not the-slightest even
auditionem de ea re accepi; praeterea Marcellus, quod
hearsay about that matter I-received besides Marcellus because
adhuc nihil rettulit de successione provinciarum Galliarum
so-far nothing has-moved about the-succession of-the-provinces of-the-Gauls

et in K. Iun., ut mihi ipse dixit, eam distulit
and to the-Kalends of-June as to-me himself said that he-has-put-off
relationem, sane quam eos sermones expressit, qui de
motion very much those talks he-has-called-forth which about
eo tum fuerant cum Romae nos essemus.
him then had-been when at-Rome we were
Tu si Pompeium, ut volebas, offendisti, qui tibi 3
You if Pompey as you-wished you-have-come-upon how to-you
visus sit et quam orationem habuerit tecum quamque
seemed he-has and what talk he-had with-you and-what
ostenderit voluntatem (solet enim aliud sentire et loqui
he-showed disposition he-is-wont for one-thing to-feel and to-say
neque tantum valere ingenio, ut non appareat quid
nor so-much to-be-strong in-wit that not it-appears what
cupiat), fac mihi perscribas.
he-desires make to-me you-write-out
Quod ad Caesarem, crebri et non belli de eo rumores, 4
As-to-what to Caesar frequent and not pretty about him rumors
sed susurratores dumtaxat, veniunt. Alius equitem perdidisse,
but whisperers only come One the-cavalry to-have-lost
quod, opinor, certe factum est, alius septimam legionem
which I-think certainly done has-been another the-seventh legion
vapulasse, ipsum apud Bellovacos circumsederi interclusum
to-have-been-beaten himself among the-Bellovaci to-be-besieged cut-off
ab reliquo exercitu; neque adhuc certi quicquam est, neque
from the-rest-of army nor as-yet of-certain anything is nor
haec incerta tamen vulgo iactantur, sed inter paucos quos
these uncertain-things still commonly are-bandied but among a-few whom
tu nosti palam secreto narrantur; at Domitius, cum manus ad
you know openly in-secret are-told but Domitius when hands to
os apposuit. Te a. d. viiii K. Iun. subrostrani
mouth has-put You on-the day ninth before-the-Kalends of-June the-rostra-loungers

(quod illorum capiti sit!) dissiparant perisse. Urbe ac
which on-their head be had-spread to-have-perished In-the-city and
foro toto maximus rumor fuit te a Q. Pompeio in itinere
forum whole very-great rumor was you by Quintus Pompeius on the-journey
occisum. Ego qui scirem Q. Pompeium Baulis embaeneticam
killed I who knew Quintus Pompeius at-Bauli boat-hauling
facere et usque eo ut ego misererer eius esurire, non
to-do and up-to that that I pitied him to-be-hungry not
sum commotus et hoc mendacio, si qua pericula tibi
I-was moved and by-this lie if any dangers over-you
impenderent, ut defungeremur optavi. Plancus quidem tuus
hung that we-might-be-done I-wished Plancus indeed your
Ravennae est et magno congiario donatus a Caesare nec
at-Ravenna is and with-great largesse presented by Caesar neither
beatus nec bene instructus est. Tui politici libri omnibus vigent.
happy nor well furnished is Your political books with-all flourish

VIII.2 · MESSALLA ACQUITTED

Messalla has been acquitted by every order, to everyone's astonishment, and Caelius, who favored him, felt duped; the jurors were assailed with shouts, and Messalla is in danger under the Licinian law. Hortensius, entering Curio's theater the next day, was met with din and hissing, the first of his old age. Marcellus' attacks have subsided by design, and the consular elections are most uncertain; for the aedileship Caelius has Marcus Octavius and Gaius Hirrus as rivals. He asks Cicero to attend to the panthers once he hears Caelius is elected, and commends the Sittian bond.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

Certe, inquam, absolutus est (me repraesentante 1

Certainly I-say acquitted he-has-been me being-present

pronuntiatum est), et quidem omnibus ordinibus et

announced it-was and indeed by-all orders and

singulis in uno quoque ordine sententiis. 'Ride modo,'

by-single in one each order votes Laugh now

inquis. Non me hercules; nihil umquam enim tam

you-say Not so-help-me Hercules nothing ever for so

praeter opinionem, tam quod videretur omnibus indignum,

beyond expectation so which seemed to-all outrageous

accidit. Quin ego cum pro amicitia validissime faverem

has-happened Nay I although for friendship most-strongly I-favored

ei et me iam ad dolendum praeparassem, postquam

him and myself already for grieving had-prepared after

factum est, obstipui et mihi visus sum captus esse.

done it-was I-was-stunned and to-myself seemed I-have duped to-have-been

Quid alios putas? Clamoribus scilicet maximis iudices

What others do-you-think With-shouts of-course very-great the-judges

corripuerunt et ostenderunt plane esse quod ferri non

they-assailed and showed clearly to-be what to-be-borne not

posset. Itaque relictus legi Liciniae maiore esse periculo

could And-so left to-the-law Licinian in-greater to-be danger

videtur. Accessit huc quod postridie eius absolutionem

he-seems There-was-added here that the-day-after his acquittal

in theatrum Curionis Hortensius introiit, puto, ut suum
into the-theater of-Curio Hortensius entered I-think that his
gaudium gauderemus. Hic tibi
joy we-might-rejoice Here for-you

'Strepitus, fremitus, clamor tonitruum et rudentum sibilus.'
Din roar shouting of-thunders and of-ropes whistling

Hoc magis animadversum est, quod intactus ab sibilo
This more noticed it-was because untouched by hissing
pervenerat Hortensius ad senectutem; sed tum tam bene, ut in
had-reached Hortensius to old-age but then so well that for
totam vitam quoivis satis esset et paeniteret eum iam vicisse.
whole life for-anyone enough it-was and it-repented him now to-have-won
2 De re p. quod tibi scribam nihil habeo. Marcelli
About the-thing public what to-you I-should-write nothing I-have of-Marcellus
impetus resederunt non inertia sed, ut mihi videbantur,
the-attacks have-subsided not through-sloth but as to-me they-seemed
consilio. De comitiis consularibus incertissima est existimatio.
by-design About the-elections consular most-uncertain is opinion
Ego incidi in competitorem nobilem et nobilem agentem;
I have-fallen on a-rival noble and noble acting
nam M. Octavius Cn. f. et C. Hirrus mecum petit.
for Marcus Octavius of-Gnaeus son and Gaius Hirrus with-me stands
Hoc ideo scripsi, quod scio te acriter propter Hirrum
This for-that-reason I-wrote because I-know you keenly because-of Hirrus
nuntium nostrorum comitiorum exspectaturum. Tu tamen
the-news of-our elections going-to-await You still
simul ac me designatum audieris, ut tibi curae sit quod ad
as-soon as me elected you-hear that to-you a-concern be as to
pantheras attinet rogo. Syngrapham Sittianam tibi commendo.
the-panthers pertains I-ask The-bond Sittian to-you I-commend

Commentarium rerum urbanarum primum dedi L.
The-journal of-affairs of-the-city first I-gave to-Lucius
Castrinio Paeto, secundum ei qui has litteras tibi dedit.
Castrinius Paetus the-second to-him who this letter to-you gave

VIII.3 · HIRRUS AND THE AUGURATE

Caelius has proved Cicero wrong, who said on leaving that he would not trouble to write, and misses Cicero, with whom he spent his leisure. His rival Hirrus makes him seek Cicero night and day: how Hirrus, Cicero's beaten rival for the augurate, must grieve to see Caelius a surer candidate than himself, and hide it. Caelius has seen that Philotimus satisfied Milo's family. He asks Cicero, when at leisure, to dedicate some treatise to him, to hand down their friendship to posterity.

Caelius Ciceroni s.
Caelius to-Cicero greeting
Estne? vici et tibi saepe, quod negaras discedens 1
Is-it-so I-have-won and to-you often what you-had-denied departing
curaturum tibi, litteras mitto? Est, si quidem perferuntur,
going-to-attend-to to-you letters I-send It-is if indeed are-delivered
quas do. Atque hoc eo diligentius facio quod, cum otiosus
which I-give And this for-that more-carefully I-do because when at-leisure
sum, plane ubi delectem otiolum meum non habeo. Tu cum
I-am at-all where I-may-amuse little-leisure my not I-have You when
Romae eras, hoc mihi certum ac iucundissimum vacanti
at-Rome you-were this to-me sure and most-pleasant being-free
negotium erat, tecum id oti tempus consumere; idque
business was with-you that of-leisure time to-spend and-that
non mediocriter desidero, ut mihi non modo solus esse
not moderately I-miss so-that to-me not only alone to-be
sed Romae te profecto solitudo videatur facta, et, qui, quae
but at-Rome you gone a-desert may-seem made and who such-as

mea neglegentia est, multos saepe dies ad te, cum hic eras,
my negligence is many often days to you when here you-were
non accedebam, nunc cotidie non esse te ad quem cursitem
not I-used-to-come now daily not to-be you to whom I-may-run
discrucior. Maxime vero ut te dies noctesque quaeram
I-am-tormented Most indeed that you days and-nights I-seek
competitor Hirrus curat. Quo modo illum putas auguratus
my-rival Hirrus sees-to In-what way him do-you-think of-the-augurate
tuum competitorem dolere et dissimulare me certiorem quam
your rival to-grieve and to-pretend me surer than
se candidatum? De quo ut quem optas quam primum
himself candidate About whom that which you-wish as first
nuntium accipias, tua medius fidius magis quam mea
news you-receive for-your so-help-me god-of-faith more than my
causa cupio; nam mea, si fio, forsitan cum locupletiore
sake I-desire for for-me if I-am-made perhaps with a-richer
referam; sed hoc usque eo suave est ut, si acciderit,
I-may-have-to-deal but this up-to that sweet is that if it-will-have-happened
tota vita risus nobis desse non possit. Sed tanti
in-whole life laughter to-us to-be-lacking not could But so-much-worth
sed me hercules non multum M. Octavius eorum
but so-help-me Hercules not much Marcus Octavius of-those
odia quae Hirrum premunt, quae permulta sunt, sublevat.
the-hatreds which Hirrus press which very-many are relieves
2 Quod ad Philotimi liberti officium et bona Milonis
As to of-Philotimus the-freedman the-conduct and the-goods of-Milo
attinet, dedimus operam ut et Philotimus quam honestissime
pertains we-gave effort that both Philotimus as most-honorably
Miloni absenti eiusque necessariis satis faceret et secundum
to-Milo absent and-his connections enough should-do and following
eius fidem et sedulitatem existimatio tua conservaretur.
his good-faith and diligence reputation your should-be-preserved

Illud nunc a te peto, si eris, ut spero, otiosus, aliquod 3
That now from you I-ask if you-will-be as I-hope at-leisure some
ad nos, ut intellegamus nos tibi curae esse, σύνταγμα
to us that we-may-understand us to-you for-a-care to-be treatise
conscribas. 'Qui tibi istuc,' inquis, 'in mentem venit, homini
you-compose How to-you that you-say into mind came to-a-man
non inepto?' Opto aliquod ex tam multis tuis monumentis
not foolish I-wish some of so many your monuments
exstare quod nostrae amicitiae memoriam posteris quoque
to-stand-out which of-our friendship the-memory to-posterity also
prodat. Cuius modi velim, puto, quaeris. Tu citius,
may-hand-down Of-what kind I-would-wish I-think you-ask You sooner
qui omnem nosti disciplinam, quod maxime convenit
who every you-know discipline what most is-fitting
excogitabis, genere tamen quod et ad nos pertineat et
will-devise of-a-kind still which both to us may-pertain and
διδασκαλίαν quandam, ut versetur inter manus, habeat.
instruction some that it-may-be-handled among hands may-have

VIII.4 · NEWS FROM THE ELECTIONS

Caelius envies the wonders that reach Cicero: Messalla acquitted then condemned, Gaius Marcellus consul, Calidius prosecuted after defeat, Dolabella made quindecimvir, and Lentulus Crus defeated. Servaeus, tribune-elect, was condemned and Curio stands in his place, angered at Caesar's slight and likely to be the senate's. Caelius' own election is delayed. In the senate Pompey said he would withdraw his legion from Caesar, and the Gallic provinces are set for the Ides of Sextilis. He reminds Cicero of the Sittian bond and the panthers, and asks about the Alexandrian king's reported death.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Invideo tibi; tam multa cotidie quae mirere istoc
I-envy you so many daily which you-may-wonder-at thither
perferuntur, primum illud, absolutum Messalam, deinde
are-brought first that acquitted Messalla next
eundem condemnatum, C. Marcellum cos. factum, M.
the-same condemned Gaius Marcellus consul made Marcus
Calidium ab repulsa postulatum a Galliis duobus, P.
Calidius after defeat prosecuted by Gallii two Publius
Dolabellam xv virum factum. Hoc tibi non invideo,
Dolabella fifteen man made This to-you not I-envy
caruisse te pulcherrimo spectaculo et Lentuli Cruris
to-have-missed you the-most-beautiful spectacle and of-Lentulus Crus
repulsi vultum non vidisse. At qua spe, quam certa
defeated the-face not to-have-seen But with-what hope how sure
opinione descenderat, quam ipso diffidente Dolabella!
belief he-had-come-down how himself distrusting Dolabella
Et hercules, nisi nostri equites acutius vidissent, paene
And by-Hercules unless our knights more-sharply had-seen almost
concedente adversario superasset.
conceding his-opponent he-would-have-won

2 Illud te non arbitror miratum, Servaeum, designatum tr.
That you not I-think wondered Servaeus elect tribune
pl., condemnatum; cuius in locum C. Curio petiit.
of-the-plebs condemned of-whom into the-place Gaius Curio has-stood
Sane quam incutit multis, qui eum facilitatemque eius
Very much he-strikes into-many who him and-easygoingness his
non norunt, magnum metum; sed ut spero et volo et
not know great fear but as I-hope and wish and
ut se fert ipse, bonos et senatum malet; totus, ut
as himself he-bears himself the-good and the-senate he-will-prefer whole as

nunc est, hoc scaturit. Huius autem voluntatis initium
now he-is with-this he-bubbles Of-this however disposition the-beginning
et causa est quod eum non mediocriter Caesar, qui solet
and cause is that him not moderately Caesar who is-wont
infimorum hominum amicitiam sibi qualibet impensa
of-the-lowest men friendship to-himself at-any-whatever cost
adiungere, valde contempsit. Qua in re mihi videtur illud
to-attach greatly has-scorned Which in thing to-me seems that
perquam venuste cecidisse, quod a reliquis quoque usque
very charmingly to-have-fallen-out which by the-rest also up-to
eo est animadversum ut Curio, qui nihil consilio facit,
that has-been noticed that Curio who nothing by-design does
ratione et insidiis usus videretur in evitandis consiliis,
method and stratagems used seemed in to-be-avoided plans
qui se intenderant adversarios in eius tribunatum,
of-those-who themselves had-braced as-opponents to his tribunate
Laelios et Antonios et id genus valentis dico.
the-Laelii and Antonii and that kind the-strong-men I-mean
Has ego tibi litteras eo maiore misi intervallo, quod 3
This I to-you letter by-that greater sent interval because
comitiorum dilationes occupatiorem me habebant et
of-the-elections the-postponements busier me kept and
exspectare in dies exitum cogebant, ut confectis omnibus
to-await into days the-outcome forced that completed all-things
te facerem certiorem. Ad K. Sext. usque exspectavi.
you I-might-make more-certain To the-Kalends of-Sextilis right I-waited
Praetoriis morae quaedam inciderunt. Mea porro comitia
For-the-praetorian delays certain have-occurred My moreover elections
quem eventum sint habitura nescio; opinionem quidem,
what outcome are going-to-have I-know-not an-expectation indeed
quod ad Hirrum attinet, incredibilem aed. pl.
as to Hirrus pertains incredible of-aediles of-the-plebs

comitiis nacta sunt. Nam M. Coelium Vinicianum
by-the-elections gained they-have For Marcus Coelius Vinicianus
mentio illa fatua, quam deriseramus olim, et promulgatio
mention that silly which we-had-laughed-at once and the-proposal
de dictatore subito deiecit et deiectum magno clamore
about a-dictator suddenly threw-down and thrown-down with-great shouting
insecuta est. Inde Hirrum cuncti iam non faciendum
pursued has Thence Hirrus all now not to-be-made
flagitare. Spero te celeriter et de nobis, quod sperasti,
to-demand I-hope you quickly both about us what you-hoped
et de illo, quod vix sperare ausus es, auditurum.
and about him what scarcely to-hope dared you-have going-to-hear
4 De re p. iam novi quicquam exspectare desieramus;
About the-thing public now of-new anything to-expect we-had-ceased
sed cum senatus habitus esset ad Apollinis a. d. xi
but when the-senate held had-been at Apollo's on-the day eleventh
K. Sext. et referretur de stipendio Cn.
before-the-Kalends of-Sextilis and it-was-moved about the-pay of-Gnaeus
Pompei, mentio facta est de legione ea, quam expensam tulit
Pompey mention made was about the-legion that which as-lent entered
C. Caesari Pompeius, quo numero esset, quoad pateretur
to-Gaius Caesar Pompey in-what number it-was how-long would-allow
eam Pompeius esse in Gallia. Coactus est dicere Pompeius
it Pompey to-be in Gaul Forced was to-say Pompey
se legionem abducturum, sed non statim sub mentionem
himself the-legion going-to-withdraw but not at-once upon the-mention
et convicium obtrectatorum; inde interrogatus de successione
and abuse of-the-detractors thence questioned about the-succession
C. Caesaris; de qua, hoc est de provinciis, placitum est
of-Gaius Caesar about which this is about the-provinces resolved it-was
ut quam primum ad urbem reverteretur Cn. Pompeius, ut
that as first to the-city should-return Gnaeus Pompey so-that

coram eo de successione provinciarum ageretur; nam
in-presence-of him about the-succession of-the-provinces it-might-be-dealt for
Ariminum ad exercitum Pompeius erat iturus et statim iit.
to-Ariminum to the-army Pompey was going-to-go and at-once went
Puto Idibus Sext. de ea re actum iri. Profecto aut
I-think on-the-Ides of-Sextilis about that matter dealt to-be-going Surely either
transigetur aliquid aut turpiter intercedetur; nam in disputando
will-be-settled something or shamefully it-will-be-vetoed for in disputing
coiecit illam vocem Cn. Pompeius, omnis oportere senatui
threw-out that saying Gnaeus Pompey all to-behoove to-the-senate
dicto audientis esse. Ego tamen sic nihil exspecto quo
to-word obedient to-be I still so nothing expect in-what
modo Paulum, cos. designatum, primum sententiam dicentem.
way Paulus consul elect first opinion speaking
Saepius te admoneo de syngrapha Sittiana (cupio enim 5
Rather-often you I-remind about the-bond Sittian I-desire for
te intellegere eam rem ad me valde pertinere); item
you to-understand that matter to me greatly to-pertain likewise
de pantheris, ut Ciburatas accersas curesque ut mi
about the-panthers that the-Cibyrates you-summon and-see that to-me
vehantur; praeterea (nuntiatur enim nobis et pro certo
they-be-carried besides it-is-announced for to-us and for certain
iam habetur regem Alexandrinum mortuum), quid mihi
now it-is-held the-king Alexandrian dead what to-me
suadeas, quo modo regnum illud se habeat, quis procuret,
you-advise in-what way kingdom that itself holds who administers
diligenter mihi perscribas. K. Sext.
carefully to-me write-out on-the-Kalends of-Sextilis

Caelius is anxious for Cicero's province: he wishes for a war just great enough for a triumph without danger, but the Parthians threaten and Cicero's army can scarcely hold a pass, while everything is asked of him as if he had been given everything. Because of the Gallic dispute Caelius sees no successor coming: each motion will meet a veto, and the business may linger more than two years. All things have stuck as in a ditch; Marcellus cannot even get a quorum, and if this year passes so, the same dispute over the provinces will come up when Curio is tribune.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Qua tu cura sis, quod ad pacem provinciae tuae
In-what you anxiety are as to the-peace of-province your
finitimarumque regionum attinet, nescio; ego quidem
and-of-the-neighboring regions pertains I-know-not I indeed
vehementer animi pendeo. Nam si hoc modo rem
vehemently in-mind I-hang For if in-this way the-matter
moderari possemus, ut pro viribus copiarum tuarum
to-manage we-could that in-proportion-to the-strength of-forces your
belli quoque exsisteret magnitudo et quantum gloriae
of-the-war also should-arise the-size and as-much-as of-glory
triumphoque opus esset adsequeremur, periculosam et
and-for-a-triumph need was we-should-attain dangerous and
gravem illam dimicationem evitaremus, nihil tam esset
grave that struggle we-should-avoid nothing so would-be
optandum; nunc si Parthus movet aliquid, scio non
to-be-wished now if the-Parthian stirs anything I-know not
mediocrem fore contentionem; tuus porro exercitus
moderate to-be-going-to-be the-struggle your moreover army
vix unum saltum tueri potest. Hanc autem nemo ducit
scarcely one pass to-guard can This however no-one takes

rationem, sed omnia desiderantur ab eo, tamquam nihil
account but all-things are-required from him as-if nothing
denegatum sit ei quo minus quam paratissimus
denied has-been to-him whereby less as most-prepared
esset, qui publico negotio praepositus est.
he-should-be who over-public business placed has-been
Accedit huc quod successionem futuram propter Galliarum 2
There-is-added here that a-succession going-to-be because-of of-the-Gauls
controversiam non video. Tametsi hac de re puto te
the-dispute not I-see Although this about matter I-think you
constitutum quid facturus esses habere, tamen, quo maturius
decided what going-to-do you-were to-have still that sooner
constitueres, cum hunc eventum providebam, visum est ut te
you-might-decide since this outcome I-foresaw seemed it-has that you
facerem certiorem. Nosti enim haec tralaticia: de Galliis
I-should-make more-certain You-know for these routine-things about the-Gauls
constituetur; erit qui intercedat; deinde alius exsistet
it-will-be-decided there-will-be one-who vetoes then another will-arise
qui, nisi libere liceat de omnibus provinciis decernere
who unless freely it-be-allowed about all provinces to-decree
senatui, reliquas impediat. Sic multum ac diu ludetur,
to-the-senate the-rest will-block So much and long it-will-be-played
atque ita diu ut plus biennium in his tricis moretur.
and so long that more two-years in these trifles it-may-linger
Si quid novi de re p. quod tibi scriberem haberem, 3
If anything new about the-thing public which to-you I-might-write I-had
usus essem mea consuetudine, ut diligenter et quid actum
used I-would-have my habit that carefully both what done
esset et quid ex eo futurum sperarem perscriberem. Sane
had-been and what from it going-to-be I-expected I-should-write-out Indeed
tamquam in quodam incili iam omnia adhaeserunt. Marcellus
as-if in some ditch now all-things have-stuck Marcellus

idem illud de provinciis urget neque adhuc frequentiam
the-same that about the-provinces presses nor as-yet a-quorum
senatus efficere potuit. Hoc si praeterito anno Curio
of-the-senate to-bring-about could This if passed the-year Curio
tribunus erit, eadem actio de provinciis introibit. Quam
tribune will-be the-same proceeding about the-provinces will-come-in How
facile nunc sit omnia impedire et quam hoc Caesari, qui
easy now it-is all-things to-block and how this to-Caesar who
sua causa rem p. non curent, superet, non te fallit.
their-own sake the-thing public not care-for may-be-abundant not you escapes

VIII.6 · DOLABELLA ACCUSES APPIUS

Dolabella has prosecuted Appius, with less ill will than Caelius expected, since Appius dropped his triumph and is now relying on Cicero, who must take care, being reconciled with him, not to seem insincere. Between the application and the charge, Dolabella's wife left him. Caelius advises Cicero to show nothing of his wishes for now. Pompey works for Appius; the consuls have passed only a decree on the Latin festival; Curio has gone over to the people, begun to speak for Caesar, and floated a road law and a food law. Bibulus lost some cohorts on Amanus, and Caelius still lacks his Greek panthers.

Caelius Ciceroni s.
Caelius to-Cicero greeting
1 Non dubito quin perlatum ad te sit Appium a Dolabella
Not I-doubt that reported to you it-has-been Appius by Dolabella
reum factum sane quam non ea qua existimaveram
defendant made very much not with-that which I-had-expected
invidia; neque enim stulte Appius, qui, simul atque Dolabella
ill-will nor for foolishly Appius who as-soon as Dolabella
accessit ad tribunal, introierat in urbem triumphique
approached to the-tribunal had-entered into the-city and-of-a-triumph

postulationem abiecerat; quo facto rettudit sermones
the-claim had-thrown-away which done he-blunted the-talk
paratiorque visus est quam speraverat accusator. Is nunc
and-more-prepared seemed he-has than had-hoped the-accuser He now
in te maximam spem habet. Scio tibi eum non esse odio;
in you greatest hope has I-know to-you him not to-be for-hatred
quam velis eum obligare in tua manu est. Cum quo
how-much you-may-wish him to-bind in your hand it-is With whom
si simultas tibi non fuisset, liberius tibi de tota re
if a-feud to-you not had-been freer for-you about whole affair
esset; nunc si ad illam summam veritatem legitimum ius
it-would-be now if to that highest truth lawful right
exegeris, cavendum tibi erit ne parum simpliciter
you-will-have-exacted to-be-guarded by-you it-will-be lest too-little simply
et candide posuisse inimicitias videaris. In hanc partem
and candidly to-have-laid-down enmities you-may-seem In this direction
porro tutum tibi erit si quid volueris gratificari;
moreover safe for-you it-will-be if anything you-wish to-do-a-favor
nemo enim necessitudine et amicitia te deterritum ab
no-one for by-connection and friendship you deterred from
officio dicet. Illud mihi occurrit, quod inter postulationem
duty will-say That to-me occurs that between the-application
et nominis delationem uxor a Dolabella discessit.
and of-the-name the-lodging the-wife from Dolabella has-departed
Quid mihi discedens mandaris memini; quid ego tibi 2
What to-me departing you-charged I-remember what I to-you
scripserim te non arbitror oblitum. Non est iam tempus
wrote you not I-think forgotten Not there-is now time
plura narrandi; unum illud monere te possum, si res tibi
of-more telling one that to-warn you I-can if the-thing to-you
non displicebit, tamen hoc tempore nihil de tua voluntate
not will-displease still at-this time nothing about your wish

ostendas et exspectes quem ad modum exeat ex hac
show and wait in-what to manner he-comes-out from this
causa. Denique invidiosum tibi sit, si emanarit porro
case Finally odious to-you it-may-be if it-leaks-out moreover
significatio ulla intercessit, clarius, quam deceat aut expediat,
a-sign any has-come-between more-clearly than may-befit or be-expedient
fiat. Neque ille tacere eam rem poterit, quae suae spei
it-becomes Nor he to-keep-quiet that thing will-be-able which to-his hope
tam opportuna acciderit quaeque in negotio conficiendo tanto
so timely has-happened and-which in business to-be-done so-much
inlustrior erit, cum praesertim is sit qui, si perniciosum
more-conspicuous will-be since especially he is one-who if ruinous
sciret esse loqui de hac re, vix tamen se contineret.
he-knew to-be to-speak about this matter scarcely still himself would-restrain
3 Pompeius dicitur valde pro Appio laborare, ut etiam
Pompey is-said greatly for Appius to-labor so-that even
putent alterum utrum de filiis ad te missurum. Hic nos
they-think one or-other of sons to you going-to-send Here we
omnes absolvimus, et hercules consaepta omnia foeda et
all acquit and by-Hercules fenced-off all-things foul and
inhonesta sunt. Consules autem habemus summa diligentia;
dishonorable are Consuls however we-have of-highest diligence
adhuc s. c. nisi de feriis Latinis nullum facere
so-far of-the-senate decree except about the-festival Latin none to-make
potuerunt. Curioni nostro tribunatus conglaciat.
they-have-been-able for-Curio our the-tribunate freezes-up
4 Sed dici non potest quo modo hic omnia iaceant.
But to-be-said not can in-what way here all-things lie-idle
Nisi ego cum tabernariis et aquariis pugnarem, veternus
Unless I with shopkeepers and water-men were-fighting lethargy
civitatem occupasset. Si Parthi vos nihil calficiunt, nos
the-state would-have-seized If the-Parthians you nothing warm we

frigore frigescimus. Tamen, quoquo modo potuit, sine
with-cold freeze Still in-whatever way he-could without
Parthis Bibulus in Amano nescio quid cohorticularum
Parthians Bibulus on Amanus I-know-not what of-little-cohorts
amisit. Hoc sic nuntiatum est.
lost This so reported has-been
Quod tibi supra scripsi Curionem valde frigere, iam calet; 5
What to-you above I-wrote Curio very to-be-cold now he-is-hot
nam ferventissime concerpitur. Levissime enim, quia de
for most-fervently he-is-torn-to-pieces Most-fickly for because about
intercalando non obtinuerat, transfugit ad populum et pro
intercalating not he-had-carried-it he-has-deserted to the-people and for
Caesare loqui coepit legemque viariam non dissimilem
Caesar to-speak has-begun and-a-law about-roads not unlike
agrariae Rulli et alumentariam, quae iubet aedilis metiri,
the-agrarian of-Rullus and a-food-law which orders the-aediles to-measure
iactavit. Hoc nondum fecerat, cum priorem partem
he-has-floated This not-yet he-had-done when the-earlier part
epistulae scripsi. Amabo te, si quid, quod opus fuerit
of-the-letter I-wrote I-will-love you if anything which need will-be
Appio, facies, ponito me in gratia. De Dolabella integrum
for-Appius you-will-do place me in favor About Dolabella open
tibi reserves suadeo. Et huic rei de qua loquor et
for-yourself you-keep I-advise Both for-this matter about which I-speak and
dignitati tuae aequitatisque opinioni hoc ita facere expedit.
for-standing your and-of-fairness the-reputation this so to-do is-expedient
Turpe tibi erit pantheras Graecas me non habere.
Disgraceful for-you it-will-be panthers Greek me not to-have

Caelius does not know how soon Cicero wants to leave his province, but while he is there Caelius will fear a Parthian war. The only news is what Cicero surely wants: young Cornificius is betrothed to Orestilla's daughter; Paula Valeria divorced her husband without cause on the day he was to return from his province and will marry Decimus Brutus; and Servius Ocella would have persuaded no one he was an adulterer had he not been caught twice in three days. Where he was caught, Caelius leaves Cicero to learn from others.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Quam cito tu istinc decedere cupias nescio; ego quidem
How quickly you from-there to-withdraw may-desire I-know-not I indeed
eo magis, quo adhuc felicius res gessisti, dum
by-that more by-which so-far more-happily affairs you-have-managed while
istic eris, de belli Parthici periculo cruciabor, ne
there you-will-be about of-war Parthian the-danger I-shall-be-tormented lest
hunc risum meum metus aliqui perturbet. Breviores has
this laughter my fear some may-disturb Shorter this
litteras properanti publicanorum tabellario subito dedi; tuo
letter to-a-hurrying of-the-tax-farmers courier suddenly I-gave to-your
liberto pluribus verbis scriptas pridie dederam.
freedman in-more words written the-day-before I-had-given

2 Res autem novae nullae sane acciderunt, nisi haec vis
Things however new none really have-happened unless these you-want
tibi scribi, quae certe vis: Cornificius adulescens
to-you to-be-written which certainly you-want Cornificius the-young
Orestillae filiam sibi despondit; Paula Valeria, soror
of-Orestilla the-daughter to-himself has-betrothed Paula Valeria sister
Triari, divortium sine causa, quo die vir e provincia
of-Triarius a-divorce without cause on-which day husband from the-province

venturus erat, fecit; nuptura est D. Bruto. Nondum
going-to-come was has-made going-to-marry she-is Decimus Brutus Not-yet
rettuleras. Multa in hoc genere incredibilia te absente
had-you-reported-it Many in this kind incredible-things you absent
acciderunt. Servius Ocella nemini persuasisset se
have-happened Servius Ocella no-one would-have-persuaded himself
moechum esse, nisi triduo bis deprensus esset. Quaeres,
an-adulterer to-be unless in-three-days twice caught he-had-been You-will-ask
ubi. Ubi hercules ego minime vellem. Relinquo tibi quod
where Where by-Hercules I least would-wish I-leave to-you what
ab aliis quaeras; neque enim displicet mihi imperatorem
from others you-may-ask nor for does-it-displease me a-general
singulos percontari cum qua sit aliqui deprensus.
single-men to-question with which-woman has some-man been-caught

VIII.8 · THE SENATE'S RESOLUTIONS

Sempronius Rufus has been convicted of false accusation, Caelius having spoken against him in the case of Tuccius. Servilius, prosecuted for extortion, was neither acquitted nor condemned, Laterensis having mishandled the tied votes, and now Appius the younger is prosecuted in turn. After long delay over the Gauls the senate has passed the decree and the vetoed resolutions Caelius encloses, on the consular provinces, the soldiers of Caesar's army, and the praetorian provinces. Pompey said he could not decide on Caesar's provinces before the Kalends of March, but would after, and asked what if his son should strike him with a stick. Curio is setting himself wholly against Caesar; since Curio has given Caelius the African beasts brought for his own games, Caelius needs beasts from Cicero's province.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Etsi de re p. quae tibi scribam habeo, tamen
Although about the-thing public what to-you I-may-write I-have still
nihil quod magis gavisurum te putem habeo quam
nothing at-which more going-to-rejoice you I-would-think I-have than
hoc: Scito C. Sempronium Rufum, mel ac delicias
this Know Gaius Sempronius Rufus the-honey and darling
tuas, calumniam maximo plausu tulisse. Qua
your for-false-accusation with-greatest applause to-have-been-convicted What
quaeris in causa. M. Tuccium, accusatorem suum, post
you-ask in case Marcus Tuccius accuser his after
ludos Romanos reum lege Plotia de vi fecit
the-games Roman defendant under-the-law Plotian about violence he-made
hoc consilio, quod videbat, si extraordinarius reus nemo
with-this design because he-saw if extraordinary defendant no
accessisset, sibi hoc anno causam esse dicendam. Dubium
had-come-up for-himself this year case to-be to-be-pleaded Doubtful
porro illi non erat quid futurum esset. Nemini hoc deferre
moreover to-him not it-was what going-to-be would-be To-no-one this to-offer
munusculum maluit quam suo accusatori; itaque sine ullo
little-gift he-preferred than to-his accuser and-so without any
subscriptore descendit et Tuccium reum fecit. At ego,
co-signer he-went-down and Tuccius defendant made But I
simul atque audivi, invocatus ad subsellia rei occurro;
as-soon as I-heard uninvited to the-benches of-the-defendant I-hasten
surgo neque verbum de re facio; totum Sempronium
I-rise nor a-word about the-case I-make whole Sempronius
usque eo perago ut Vestorium quoque interponam et
up-to that I-go-through that Vestorius also I-bring-in and

illam fabulam narrem, quem ad modum tibi pro beneficio
that story I-tell in-what to manner to-you for a-favor
dederit, si quod iniuriis suis esset, ut Vestorius teneret.
he-gave if anything by-wrongs his there-was that Vestorius should-keep
Haec quoque magna nunc contentio forum tenet: M. 2
This also great now struggle the-forum holds Marcus
Servilius postquam, ut coeperat, omnibus in rebus
Servilius after as he-had-begun all in things
turbarat nec quod non venderet quicquam reliquerat
he-had-made-a-mess nor which not he-would-sell anything he-had-left
maximaeque nobis traditus erat invidiae, neque Laterensis
and-to-the-greatest us handed-over had-been ill-will nor Laterensis
praetor postulante Pausania nobis patronis quo ea pecunia
praetor demanding Pausanias us advocates whither that money
pervenisset recipere voluit, Q. Pilius, necessarius Attici
had-come to-accept was-willing Quintus Pilius connection of-Atticus
nostri, de repetundis eum postulavit. Magna ilico fama
our for extortion him arraigned Great on-the-spot talk
surrexit et de damnatione ferventer loqui est coeptum. Quo
rose and about condemnation hotly to-speak was begun By-which
vento proicitur Appius minor, ut inpicet depecuniam
wind is-thrown-forward Appius the-younger that he-may-disclose the-money
ex bonis patris pervenisse ad Servilium praevaricationisque
from the-goods of-his-father to-have-come to Servilius and-of-collusion
causa diceret depositum HS lxxxi. Admiraris
for-the-sake he-said deposited sesterces eighty-one-thousand You-wonder-at
amentiam; immo, si actionem stultissimasque de se,
the-madness nay if the-pleading and-most-foolish about himself
nefarias de patre confessiones audisses.
wicked about father confessions you-had-heard

3 Mittit in consilium eosdem illos qui litis aestimarant
He-sends into deliberation the-same those who the-damages had-assessed
iudices. Cum aequo numero sententiae fuissent, Laterensis
judges When with-equal number the-votes had-been Laterensis
leges ignorans pronuntiavit quid singuli ordines iudicassent,
the-laws not-knowing announced what single orders had-judged
et ad extremum, ut solent, 'non redigam.' Postquam
and at the-end as they-are-wont not I-will-collect After
discessit et pro absoluto Servilius haberi coeptus legisque
he-withdrew and for acquitted Servilius to-be-held was-begun and-of-the-law
unum et centesimum caput legit, in quo ita erat:
one and hundredth chapter he-read in which thus it-was
quod eorum iudicum maior pars iudicarit, id ius
what of-those judges the-greater part will-have-judged that lawful
ratumque esto, in tabulas absolutum non rettulit, ordinum
and-ratified let-it-be into the-records acquitted not he-entered of-the-orders
iudicia perscripsit; postulante rusus Appio cum L.
the-verdicts he-wrote-out demanding again Appius with Lucius
Lollio transegit et se relaturum dixit. Sic nunc neque
Lollius he-settled and himself going-to-enter said So now neither
absolutus neque damnatus Servilius de repetundis saucius
acquitted nor condemned Servilius for extortion wounded
Pilio tradetur. Nam de divinatione Appius, cum
to-Pilius will-be-handed-over For about the-preliminary-hearing Appius when
calumniam iurasset, contendere ausus non est Pilioque
calumny he-had-sworn to-contend dared not has and-to-Pilius
cessit et ipse de pecuniis repetundis a Serviliis est
yielded and himself for monies to-be-recovered by the-Servilii has-been
postulatus et praeterea de vi reus a quodam suo
arraigned and besides for violence defendant by a-certain his-own
emissario, S. Tettio, factus. Recte hoc par habet.
agent Sextus Tettius made Rightly this pair holds

Quod ad rem publicam pertinet, omnino multis diebus 4
As to the-thing public pertains at-all for-many days
exspectatione Galliarum actum nihil est; aliquando tamen
in-expectation of-the-Gauls done nothing has-been at-length still
saepe re dilata et graviter acta et plane perspecta
often the-matter postponed and seriously handled and clearly seen-into
Cn. Pompei voluntate in eam partem ut eum decedere
of-Gnaeus Pompey the-will into that direction that him to-withdraw
post K. Martias placeret, senatus consultum, quod
after the-Kalends of-March it-pleased of-the-senate the-decree which
tibi misi, factum est auctoritatesque perscriptae.
to-you I-have-sent made has-been and-the-resolutions written-out
Senatus consultum. Auctoritates. Pr. K. 5
Of-the-senate decree Resolutions On-the-day-before the-Kalends
Octobris in aede Apollinis scrib. adfuerunt L.
of-October in the-temple of-Apollo at-the-writing were-present Lucius
Domitius Cn. f. Fab. Ahenobarbus, Q. Caecilius
Domitius of-Gnaeus son of-the-Fabian Ahenobarbus Quintus Caecilius
Q. f. Fab. Metellus Pius Scipio, L. Villius
of-Quintus son of-the-Fabian Metellus Pius Scipio Lucius Villius
L. f. Pom. Annalis, C. Septimius T. f.
of-Lucius son of-the-Pomptine Annalis Gaius Septimius of-Titus son
Qui., C. Lucilius C. f. Pup. Hirrus, C.
of-the-Quirine Gaius Lucilius of-Gaius son of-the-Pupinian Hirrus Gaius
Scribonius C. f. Pop. Curio, L. Ateius L. f.
Scribonius of-Gaius son of-the-Poblilian Curio Lucius Ateius of-Lucius son
An. Capito, M. Eppius M. f. Ter. Quod
of-the-Aniensian Capito Marcus Eppius of-Marcus son of-the-Teretine Whereas
M. Marcellus cos. v. f. de provinciis consularibus,
Marcus Marcellus consul words made about the-provinces consular
d. e. r. i. c., uti L. Paulus, C. Marcellus
about that matter thus they-resolved that Lucius Paulus Gaius Marcellus

coss., cum magistratum inissent, ex K. Mart., quae
consuls when office they-had-entered from the-Kalends of-March which
in suo magistratu futurae essent, de consularibus provinciis
in their magistracy going-to-be would-be about the-consular provinces
ad senatum referrent, neve quid prius ex K. Mart.
to the-senate should-refer nor anything earlier from the-Kalends of-March
ad senatum referrent neve quid coniunctim, utique eius
to the-senate should-refer nor anything jointly and-that of-that
rei causa per dies comitialis senatum haberent
matter for-the-sake during days of-assembly the-senate they-should-hold
senatusque cons. facerent et, cum de ea re ad
and-of-the-senate decree should-make and when about that matter to
senatum referretur, a consiliis, qui eorum in ccc
the-senate it-was-referred from the-panels who of-them among three-hundred
iudicibus essent, s. f. s. adducere liceret;
judges were without fraud their-own to-bring it-should-be-allowed
si quid de ea re ad populum pl. ve lato opus
if anything about that matter to the-people the-plebs or carried need
esset, uti Ser. Sulpicius, M. Marcellus coss., praetores
there-should-be that Servius Sulpicius Marcus Marcellus consuls praetors
tr. q. pl., quibus eorum videretur, ad populum
tribunes and of-the-plebs to-whom of-them it-should-seem-good to the-people
pl. ve ferrent; quod si ii non tulissent, uti quicumque
the-plebs or should-bring which if they not had-brought that whoever
deinceps essent ad populum pl. ve ferrent. C.
in-succession should-be to the-people the-plebs or should-bring They-resolved
6 Pr. K. Octobris in aede Apollinis scrib.
On-the-day-before the-Kalends of-October in the-temple of-Apollo at-the-writing
adfuerunt L. Domitius Cn. f. Fab. Ahenobarbus,
were-present Lucius Domitius of-Gnaeus son of-the-Fabian Ahenobarbus
Q. Caecilius Q. f. Fab. Metellus Pius Scipio,
Quintus Caecilius of-Quintus son of-the-Fabian Metellus Pius Scipio

L. Villius L. f. Pom. Annalis, C. Septimius
Lucius Villius of-Lucius son of-the-Pomptine Annalis Gaius Septimius
T. f. Qui., C. Lucilius C. f. Pup. Hirrus,
of-Titus son of-the-Quirine Gaius Lucilius of-Gaius son of-the-Pupinian Hirrus
C. Scribonius C. f. Pop. Curio, L. Ateius L.
Gaius Scribonius of-Gaius son of-the-Poblilian Curio Lucius Ateius of-Lucius
f. An. Capito, M. Eppius M. f. Ter.
son of-the-Aniensian Capito Marcus Eppius of-Marcus son of-the-Teretine
Quod M. Marcellus cos. v. f. de provinciis, d. e.
Whereas Marcus Marcellus consul words made about the-provinces about that
r. i. c., senatum existimare neminem eorum, qui
matter thus they-resolved the-senate to-judge no-one of-those who
potestatem habent intercedendi, impediendi, moram adferre
the-power have of-vetoing of-obstructing delay to-bring
oportere quo minus de r. p. p. R. q.
to-be-right whereby less about the-thing public of-the-people Roman as
p. ad senatum referri senatique consultum fieri
first to the-senate to-be-referred and-of-the-senate a-decree to-be-made
possit; qui impedierit, prohibuerit, eum senatum
may-be-able whoever will-have-obstructed will-have-prevented him the-senate
existimare contra rem publicam fecisse. Si quis huic
to-judge against the-thing public to-have-acted If anyone to-this
s. c. intercesserit, senatui placere auctoritatem
of-the-senate decree will-have-vetoed to-the-senate to-be-pleasing the-resolution
perscribi et de ea re ad senatum p. q. t.
to-be-written-out and about that matter to the-senate at-first each time
referri. Huic s. c. intercessit C. Caelius, L.
to-be-referred To-this of-the-senate decree vetoed Gaius Caelius Lucius
Vinicius, P. Cornelius, C. Vibius Pansa, tr. pl.
Vinicius Publius Cornelius Gaius Vibius Pansa tribunes of-the-plebs

7 Item senatui placere de militibus, qui in exercitu
Likewise to-the-senate to-be-pleasing about the-soldiers who in the-army
C. Caesaris sunt, qui eorum stipendia emerita aut
of-Gaius Caesar are those-who of-them service completed or
causas, quibus de causis missi fieri debeant, habeant, ad
reasons which for reasons discharged to-be-made they-ought have to
hunc ordinem referri, ut eorum ratio habeatur causaeque
this order to-be-referred that of-them account be-taken and-the-reasons
cognoscantur. Si quis huic s. c. intercessisset,
be-examined If anyone to-this of-the-senate decree had-vetoed
senatui placere auctoritatem perscribi et de ea re
to-the-senate to-be-pleasing the-resolution to-be-written-out and about that matter
p. q. t. ad hunc ordinem referri. Huic s.
at-first each time to this order to-be-referred To-this of-the-senate
c. intercessit C. Caelius, C. Pansa, tr. pl.
decree vetoed Gaius Caelius Gaius Pansa tribunes of-the-plebs

8 Itemque senatui placere in Ciliciam provinciam, in viii
And-likewise to-the-senate to-be-pleasing into Cilicia province into eight
reliquas provincias, quas praetorii pro praetore obtinerent,
remaining provinces which ex-praetors in-place-of praetor should-hold
eos, qui praetores fuerunt neque in provincia cum imperio
those who praetors have-been nor in a-province with command
fuerunt, quos eorum ex s. c. cum imperio in
have-been whom of-them from of-the-senate decree with command into
provincias pro praetore mitti oporteret, eos sortito in
provinces in-place-of praetor to-be-sent it-was-right those by-lot into
provincias mitti placere; si ex eo numero, quos ex
provinces to-be-sent to-be-pleasing if from that number whom from
s. c. in provincias ire oporteret, ad numerum non
of-the-senate decree into provinces to-go it-was-right to the-number not
essent qui in eas provincias proficiscerentur, tum, uti quodque
there-were who into those provinces would-set-out then that each

conlegium primum praetorum fuisset neque in provincias
college first of-praetors had-been nor into provinces
profecti essent, ita sorte in provincias proficiscerentur; si ii ad
set-out had so by-lot into provinces they-should-set-out if they to
numerum non essent, tum deinceps proximi cuiusque conlegii
the-number not were then in-succession of-the-next each college
qui praetores fuissent neque in provincias profecti essent, in
who praetors had-been nor into provinces set-out had into
sortem coicerentur, quoad is numerus effectus esset, quem
the-lot should-be-thrown until that number made-up had-been which
ad numerum in provincias mitti oporteret. Si quis huic
to number into provinces to-be-sent it-was-right If anyone to-this
s. c. intercessisset, auctoritas perscriberetur. Huic
of-the-senate decree had-vetoed the-resolution should-be-written-out To-this
s. c. intercessit C. Caelius, C. Pansa, tr. pl.
of-the-senate decree vetoed Gaius Caelius Gaius Pansa tribunes of-the-plebs
Illa praeterea Cn. Pompei sunt animadversa, quae 9
Those-things besides of-Gnaeus Pompey have-been noticed which
maxime confidentiam attulerunt hominibus, ut diceret se
most confidence brought to-men that he-said himself
ante K. Martias non posse sine iniuria de provinciis
before the-Kalends of-March not to-be-able without injustice about the-provinces
Caesaris statuere, post K. Martias se non dubitaturum.
of-Caesar to-decide after the-Kalends of-March himself not going-to-hesitate
Cum interrogaretur, si qui tum intercederent, dixit hoc nihil
When he-was-asked if any then should-veto he-said this nothing
interesse utrum C. Caesar senatui dicto audiens
to-make-a-difference whether Gaius Caesar to-the-senate to-word obedient
futurus non esset an pararet qui senatum decernere non
going-to-be not was or he-prepared men-who the-senate to-decree not
pateretur. ‘Quid, si,’ inquit alius, ‘et consul esse et exercitum
would-allow What if says another both consul to-be and an-army

habere volet?' At ille quam clementer: 'Quid, si filius meus
to-have will-wish But he how mildly What if son my
fustem mihi impingere volet?' His vocibus, ut existimarent
a-stick on-me to-strike will-wish By-these utterances that should-judge
homines Pompeio cum Caesare esse negotium, effecit.
men to-Pompey with Caesar to-be trouble he-brought-about
Itaque iam, ut video, alteram utram ad condicionem
And-so now as I-see one or-other to terms
descendere vult Caesar, ut aut maneat neque hoc anno
to-come-down wishes Caesar that either he-stay nor this year
sua ratio habeatur aut, si designari poterit, decedat.
his candidacy be-taken or if to-be-elected he-will-be-able he-withdraw
10 Curio se contra eum totum parat. Quid adsequi
Curio himself against him wholly prepares What to-attain
possit nescio; illud video, bene sentientem, etsi nihil
he-can I-know-not that I-see a-well thinking-man although nothing
effecerit, cadere non posse. Me tractat liberaliter
he-will-have-achieved to-fall not to-be-able Me treats generously
Curio et mihi suo munere negotium imposuit; nam si
Curio and on-me by-his gift a-burden he-has-imposed for if
mihi non dedisset eas, quae ad ludos ei advectae erant
to-me not he-had-given those which for the-games to-him brought had-been
Africanae, potuit supersederi; nunc quoniam dari
the-African-beasts it-could to-be-dispensed-with now since to-be-given
necesse est, velim tibi curae sit, quod a te semper
necessary it-is I-would-wish to-you for-a-care be what from you always
petii, ut aliquid istinc bestiarum habeamus; Sittianamque
I-have-asked that some from-there of-beasts we-may-have and-the-Sittian
syngrapham tibi commendo. Libertum Philonem istoc
bond to-you I-commend freedman Philo thither
misi et Diogenem Graecum, quibus mandata et litteras
I-have-sent and Diogenes the-Greek to-whom instructions and a-letter

ad te dedi. Eos tibi et rem, de qua misi, velim
to you I-gave Them to-you and the-matter about which I-sent I-would-wish
curae habeas; nam quam vehementer ad me pertineat, in
for-care you-hold for how vehemently to me it-pertains in
iis quas tibi illi reddent litteris perscripsi.
that which to-you they will-deliver letter I-have-written-out

VIII.9 · HIRRUS LAUGHS

Hirrus' defeat was so easy that Cicero would be ashamed he ever dared strut as his rival; since then he raises laughs, plays the good citizen against Caesar, and pleads cases for liberty, though rarely after noon. The provinces were put off to the Kalends for lack of a quorum and will pass to the next year; Cicero may have to leave someone in charge. Caelius asks for panthers, since Patiscus sent Curio ten and Curio has given Caelius those and ten more from Africa, and commends Marcus Feridius. Favonius was beaten in the elections, and Pompey proposed no decree on the provinces at present.

Caelius Ciceroni s.
Caelius to-Cicero greeting
'Sic tu,' inquis, 'Hirrum tractasti?' Immo, si scias quam 1
So you you-say Hirrus have-handled Nay if you-knew how
facile, quam ne contentionis quidem minimae fuerit,
easy how not of-contest even the-least it-was
pudeat te ausum illum umquam esse incedere tamquam
it-would-shame you dared him ever to-have to-strut as-if
tuum competitorem. Post repulsam vero risus facit;
your rival After defeat indeed laughter he-makes
civem bonum ludit et contra Caesarem sententias dicit,
the-citizen good he-plays and against Caesar opinions speaks
exspectationem corripit, Curionem prorsus Curionem non
the-waiting he-assails Curio absolutely Curio not

mediocriter obiurgatus ac repulsa se mutavit. Praeterea,
moderately scolded and by-defeat himself he-has-changed Besides
qui numquam in foro apparuerit, non multum in iudiciis
who never in the-forum has-appeared not much in the-courts
versatus sit, agit causas liberalis, sed raro post meridiem.
engaged has he-pleads cases about-liberty but rarely after noon
2 De provinciis quod tibi scripseram Idibus Sext. actum
About the-provinces what to-you I-had-written on-the-Ides of-Sextilis dealt
iri, interpellat iudicium Marcelli, consulis designati.
to-be-going interrupts the-trial of-Marcellus consul elect
In Kal. res reiecta est; ne frequentiam quidem
To the-Kalends the-matter put-off has-been not a-quorum even
efficere potuerant. Has litteras a. d. iiii Non.
to-bring-about they-had-been-able This letter on-the day fourth before-the-Nones
Septembris dedi, cum ad eam diem ne profligatum quidem
of-September I-sent when to that day not dispatched even
quicquam erat. Ut video, causa haec integra in proximum
anything was As I-see case this untouched into the-next
annum transferetur et, quantum divino, relinquendus tibi
year will-be-transferred and as-far-as I-divine to-be-left by-you
erit qui provinciam obtineat; nam non expeditur
there-will-be one-who the-province may-hold for not is-cleared
successio, quoniam Galliae, quae habent intercessorem, in
the-succession since the-Gauls which have a-vetoer into
eandem condicionem quam ceterae provinciae vocantur. Hoc
the-same condition as the-other provinces are-called This
mihi non est dubium; quo tibi magis scripsi ut ad
to-me not is doubtful whereby to-you more I-wrote that for
hunc eventum te parares.
this outcome yourself you-might-prepare

Fere litteris omnibus tibi de pantheris scripsi. Turpe 3
Almost in-letters all to-you about panthers I-have-written Disgraceful
tibi erit Patiscum Curioni decem pantheras misisse, te
for-you it-will-be Patiscus to-Curio ten panthers to-have-sent you
non multis partibus pluris; quas ipsas Curio mihi et alias
not by-many parts more which very-ones Curio to-me and others
Africanas decem donavit, ne putes illum tantum praedia
African ten has-given lest you-think him only estates
rustica dare scire. Tu si modo memoria tenueris et
rustic to-give to-know-how You if only in-memory you-hold and
Ciburatas arcessieris itemque in Pamphyliam litteras miseris
the-Cibyrates summon and-likewise into Pamphylia letters send
(nam ibi pluris capi aiunt), quod voles efficies.
for there more to-be-caught they-say what you-wish you-will-bring-about
Hoc vehementius laboro nunc, quod seorsus a conlega
This more-vehemently I-strive now because apart from my-colleague
puto mihi omnia paranda. Amabo te, impera tibi hoc.
I-think by-me all-things to-be-provided I-will-love you command yourself this
Curare soles libenter, ut ego maiorem partem nihil
To-take-care you-are-wont gladly as I the-greater part nothing
curare. In hoc negotio nulla tua nisi loquendi cura est,
to-care In this business no your except of-speaking care is
hoc est imperandi et mandandi; nam simul atque erunt
this is of-commanding and of-charging for as-soon as they-will-be
captae, qui alant eas et deportent habes eos, quos
caught men-who may-feed them and carry-off you-have those whom
ad Sittianam syngrapham misi. Puto etiam, si ullam spem
for the-Sittian bond I-sent I-think also if any hope
mihi litteris ostenderis, me isto missurum alios.
to-me by-letter you-show me thither going-to-send others

4 M. Feridium, eq. R., amici mei filium, bonum et
Marcus Feridius knight Roman of-friend my the-son good and
strenuum adulescentem, qui ad suum negotium istoc venit,
energetic a-young-man who for his-own business thither comes
tibi commendo et te rogo ut eum in tuorum numero
to-you I-commend and you I-ask that him in of-your-friends the-number
habeas. Agros, quos fructuarios habent civitates, vult
you-hold The-lands which as-revenue-paying hold the-states he-wishes
tuo beneficio, quod tibi facile et honestum factu est,
by-your favor which for-you easy and honorable to-do is
immunis esse. Gratos et bonos viros tibi obligaris.
exempt to-be Grateful and good men to-yourself you-will-have-bound
5 Nolo te putare Favonium a columnariis praeteritum;
I-do-not-wish you to-think Favonius by the-pillar-folk passed-over
optimus quisque eum non fecit. Pompeius tuus aperte
the-best each him not made Pompey your openly
Caesarem et provinciam tenere cum exercitu et consul;
Caesar both the-province to-hold with an-army and consul
ipse tamen hanc sententiam dixit, nullum hoc tempore
himself still this opinion spoke no at-this time
senatus consultum faciendum, Scipio hanc, ut K.
of-the-senate decree to-be-made Scipio this that on-the-Kalends
Martiis de provinciis Galliis neu quid coniunctim
of-March about the-provinces Gallic nor anything jointly
referretur. Contristavit haec sententia Balbum Cornelium,
should-be-referred Saddened this opinion Balbus Cornelius
et scio eum questum esse cum Scipione. Calidius in
and I-know him complained to-have with Scipio Calidius in
defensione sua fuit disertissimus, in accusatione satis frigidus.
defense his was most-eloquent in prosecution quite cold

Letters from Cassius and Deiotarus report the Parthians across the Euphrates, and Caelius fears for Cicero's standing more than his life, his forces being so small. Rome talks of sending Pompey or Caesar; the consuls, fearing a decree that would send them out in uniform and pass the war to another, will not hold the senate. Some suspect Cassius of inventing the war to cover his own plundering, so Cicero should report carefully. Nothing will be done before the Kalends of January; Marcellus is slow and Servius a delayer. Caelius cannot promise a successor but will see the term is not prolonged.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

Sane quam litteris C. Cassi et Deiotari sumus 1

Very much by-the-letters of-Gaius Cassius and of-Deiotarus we-have-been

commoti; nam Cassius cis Euphraten copias Parthorum

disturbed for Cassius this-side-of the-Euphrates the-forces of-the-Parthians

esse scripsit, Deiotarus profectas per Commagenen in

to-be wrote Deiotarus set-out through Commagene into

provinciam nostram. Ego quidem praecipuum metum, quod

province our I indeed special fear as-to

ad te attinebat, habui, qui scirem quam paratus ab exercitu

to you pertained had who knew how prepared in army

esses, ne quod hic tumultus dignitati tuae periculum

you-were lest any this upheaval to-standing your danger

adferret; nam de vita, si paratior ab exercitu esses,

might-bring for about life if more-prepared in army you-were

timuissem; nunc haec exiguitas copiarum recessum, non

I-would-have-feared now this scantiness of-forces retreat not

dimicationem mihi tuam praesagiebat. Hoc quo modo

battle to-me your foreboded This in-what way

acciperent homines, quam probabilis necessitas futura

would-take men how acceptable the-necessity going-to-be

esset, vereor etiam nunc neque prius desinam formidare,
would-be I-fear even now nor sooner will-I-cease to-dread
quam tetigisse te Italiam audiero.
than to-have-touched you Italy I-shall-have-heard

2 Sed de Parthorum transitu nuntii varios sermones
But about of-the-Parthians the-crossing the-reports various talk
excitarunt; alius enim Pompeium mittendum, alius ab
have-stirred one for Pompey to-be-sent another from
urbe Pompeium non removendum, alius Caesarem cum suo
the-city Pompey not to-be-removed another Caesar with his
exercitu, alius consules, nemo tamen ex senatus consulto
army another the-consuls no-one still from of-the-senate decree
privatos. Consules autem, quia verentur ne illud senatus
private-men The-consuls however because they-fear lest that of-the-senate
consultum fiat ut paludati exeant, et contumeliose
decree be-made that in-general's-cloaks they-go-out and insultingly
praeter eos ad alium res transferatur, omnino senatum
past them to another the-matter be-transferred at-all the-senate
haberi nolunt, usque eo ut parum diligentes in re
to-be-held do-not-wish up-to that that too-little diligent in the-thing
publica videantur; sed honeste, sive neglegentia sive inertia
public they-seem but honorably whether negligence or sloth
est sive ille quem proposui metus, latet sub hac
it-is or that which I-set-forth fear lies-hidden under this
temperantiae existimatione nolle provinciam. A te
of-restraint reputation to-be-unwilling a-province From you
litterae non venerunt et, nisi Deiotari subsecutae essent,
a-letter not has-come and unless of-Deiotarus followed had
in eam opinionem Cassius veniebat, quae diripuisset
into that opinion Cassius was-coming what-things be-had-plundered
ipse ut viderentur ab hoste vastata, finxisse bellum et
himself that they-might-seem by an-enemy laid-waste to-have-feigned war and

Arabas in provinciam immisisse eosque Parthos esse senatui
Arabs into the-province to-have-let-in and-them Parthians to-be to-the-senate
renuntiasse. Qua re tibi suadeo, quicumque est istic status
to-have-reported By-which thing to-you I-advise whatever is there the-state
rerum, diligenter et caute perscribas, ne aut velificatus
of-affairs carefully and cautiously write-out lest either to-have-trimmed-sail
aliquoi dicaris aut aliquid quod referret scire reticuisse.
for-someone you-be-said or something which it-mattered to-know to-have-kept-silent
Nunc exitus est anni; nam ego has litteras a. d. xiiii 3
Now the-end is of-the-year for I this letter on-the day fourteenth
K. Decembris scripsi. Plane nihil video ante K.
before-the-Kalends of-December wrote Clearly nothing I-see before the-Kalends
Ianuarias agi posse. Nosti Marcellum, quam tardus et
of-January to-be-done to-be-able You-know Marcellus how slow and
parum efficax sit, itemque Servius quam cunctator. Cuius
too-little effective he-is and-likewise Servius what a-delayer Of-what
modi putas hos esse aut quam id quod nolint
kind do-you-think these to-be or how that which they-do-not-want
conficere posse, qui quae cupiunt tamen ita frigide agunt
to-accomplish to-be-able who what they-desire still so coldly they-handle
ut nolle existimentur? Novis magistratibus autem,
that to-be-unwilling they-are-thought For-the-new magistrates however
si Parthicum bellum erit, haec causa primos menses
if a-Parthian war there-will-be this case the-first months
occupabit; sin aut sit aut non erit istic bellum aut tantum
will-occupy but-if either it-is or not will-be there war or so-much
erit ut vos aut successores parvis additis copiis sustinere
will-be that you or successors small added with-forces to-sustain
possint, Curionem video se dupliciter iactaturum, primum
can Curio I-see himself in-two-ways going-to-exert first
ut aliquid Caesari adimat, inde ut aliquid Pompeio
that something from-Caesar he-takes-away then that something to-Pompey

tribuat, quodvis quamlibet tenue munusculum. Paulus porro
he-grants any-you-like however slight little-gift Paulus moreover
non humane de provincia loquitur. Huius cupiditati
not reasonably about the-province speaks This-man's greed
occursurus est Furnius noster; pluris suspicari non possum.
going-to-meet is Furnius our more to-suspect not I-can
4 Haec novi; alia quae possunt accidere non cerno.
These-things I-know others which can happen not I-discern
Multa tempus adferre et praeparata mutare scio; sed
Many-things time to-bring and things-prepared to-change I-know but
intra finis hos quaecumque acciderint vertentur. Illud
within bounds these whatever will-have-happened will-turn That
addo ad actiones C. Curionis, de agro Campano;
I-add to the-actions of-Gaius Curio about the-land Campanian
de quo negant Caesarem laborare, sed Pompeium valde
about which they-say-not Caesar to-trouble but Pompey greatly
nolle, ne vacuus advenienti Caesari pateat.
to-be-unwilling lest empty for-arriving Caesar it-lie-open
5 Quod ad tuum decessum attinet, illud tibi non possum
As to your departure pertains that to-you not I-can
polliceri, me curaturum ut tibi succedatur; illud certe
promise me going-to-see-to that you be-succeeded that certainly
praestabo ne amplius prorogetur. Tui consili est, si tempus,
I-will-guarantee lest further it-be-prolonged Of-your counsel it-is if time
si senatus coget, si honeste a nobis recusari non poterit,
if the-senate will-compel if honorably by us to-be-refused not it-will-be-able
velisne perseverare; mei offici est meminisse qua
whether-you-wish to-persevere of-my duty it-is to-remember with-what
obtestatione discedens mihi ne paterer fieri mandaris.
entreaty departing to-me lest I-allow to-be-done you-charged

Cicero's thanksgiving tormented them briefly: Curio, losing his assembly days, at first would not allow it, until the consuls promised not to hold the thanksgiving this year. Hirrus kept silent and agreed with Cato, who spoke honorably of Cicero but did not vote the thanksgiving, and Favonius joined them; Curio deserves thanks for turning aside his own measures, and Balbus warned him that blocking it would wrong Caesar. All the struggle is now over the provinces: Pompey and the senate want Caesar out by the Ides of November, and Curio will undergo anything rather than allow it. Each speaker's opinion is in the journal.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

Non diu sed acriter nos tuae supplicationes torserunt; 1

Not long but sharply us your thanksgivings have-tormented

incideramus enim in difficilem nodum. Nam Curio tui

we-had-fallen for into a-difficult knot For Curio of-you

cupidissimus, quoi omnibus rationibus comitiales dies

most-fond from-whom by-all means assembly days

eripiebantur, negabat se ullo modo pati posse decerni

were-being-snatched denied himself in-any way to-allow to-be-able to-be-decreed

supplicationes, ne quod furore Pauli adeptus esset boni

thanksgivings lest what by-the-madness of-Paulus gained he-had of-good

sua culpa videretur amisisse et praevaricator causae

by-his-own fault he-might-seem to-have-lost and a-betrayer of-cause

publicae existimaretur. Itaque ad pactionem descendimus, et

public be-thought And-so to a-bargain we-came-down and

confirmarunt consules se his supplicationibus in hunc

assured the-consuls themselves these thanksgivings in this

annum non usuros. Plane quod utrisque consulibus gratias

year not going-to-use Clearly why to-both consuls thanks

agas est, Paulo magis certe; nam Marcellus sic

you-should-give there-is to-Paulus more certainly for Marcellus thus

respondit ei, spem in istis supplicationibus non habere,
answered to-him hope in those thanksgivings not to-have
Paulus, se omnino in hunc annum non edicturum.
Paulus himself at-all in this year not going-to-proclaim
2 Renuntiatum nobis erat Hirrum diutius dicturum.
Reported to-us it-had-been Hirrus at-length going-to-speak
Prendimus eum; non modo non fecit sed, cum de hostiis
We-seized him not only not he-did but when about the-victims
ageretur et posset rem impedire si ut numeraretur
it-was-dealt and he-could the-matter block if that a-count-be-made
postularet, tacuit; tantum Catoni adsensus est, qui de
he-demanded he-kept-silent only with-Cato agreed he-has who about
te locutus honorifice non decrerat supplicationes. Tertius
you having-spoken honorably not had-decreed thanksgivings A-third
ad hos Favonius accessit. Qua re pro cuiusque
to these Favonius joined By-which thing according-to each-man's
natura et instituto gratiae sunt agendae, his, quod tantum
nature and practice thanks are to-be-given to-these that only
voluntatem ostenderunt, pro sententia cum impedire possent
goodwill they-showed for a-vote when to-block they-could
non pugnarunt, Curioni vero, quod de suarum actionum
not they-fought to-Curio indeed because from of-his-own measures
cursu tua causa deflexit. Nam Furnius et Lentulus, ut
the-course for-your sake he-turned-aside For Furnius and Lentulus as
debuerunt, quasi eorum res esset, una nobiscum circumierunt
they-ought as-if their affair it-were together with-us went-round
et laborarunt. Balbi quoque Corneli operam et sedulitatem
and toiled of-Balbus also Cornelius the-help and diligence
laudare possum; nam cum Curione vehementer locutus est
to-praise I-can for with Curio vehemently spoken he-has
et eum, si aliter fecisset, iniuriam Caesari facturum dixit,
and him if otherwise he-had-done a-wrong to-Caesar going-to-do said

tum eius fidem in suspicionem adduxit. Decrerant quidem
then his good-faith into suspicion he-brought Had-decreed indeed
neque transigi volebant Domitii, Scipiones. Quibus hac re
nor to-be-settled wished the-Domitii the-Scipios To-whom by-this thing
ad intercessionem evocandam interpellantibus venustissime
for a-veto to-be-called-forth interrupting most-charmingly
Curio respondit se eo libentius non intercedere, quod
Curio replied himself for-that more-gladly not to-veto because
quosdam qui decernerent videret confici nolle.
certain-men who were-voting he-saw to-be-settled to-be-unwilling
Quod ad rem publicam attinet, in unam causam omnis 3
As to the-thing public pertains into one case all
contentio conlecta est de provinciis; in quam adhuc
struggle gathered has-been about the-provinces on which so-far
incubuisse cum senatu Pompeius videtur ut Caesar
to-have-thrown-himself with the-senate Pompey seems that Caesar
Id. Nov. decedat; Curio omnia potius subire
on-the-Ides of-November should-withdraw Curio all-things rather to-undergo
constituit quam id pati, ceteras suas abiecit actiones.
has-resolved than that to-allow the-other his he-has-cast-aside measures
Nostri porro, quos tu bene nosti, ad extremum certamen
Our-people moreover whom you well know to the-final contest
rem deducere non audebant. Scaena rei totius haec:
the-matter to-bring not dared The-stage of-the-affair whole this
Pompeius, tamquam Caesarem non impugnet sed quod illi
Pompey as-if Caesar not he-attacks but what to-him
aequum putet constituat, ait Curionem quaerere discordias,
fair he-thinks he-settles says Curio to-seek discords
valde autem non vult et plane timet Caesarem cos.
greatly however not he-wishes and plainly fears Caesar consul
desig. prius, quam exercitum et provinciam tradiderit.
elect sooner than the-army and province he-will-have-handed-over

Accipitur satis male a Curione et totus eius secundus
He-is-received quite badly by Curio and whole his second
consulatus exagitatur. Hoc tibi dico: Si omnibus rebus
consulship is-harried This to-you I-say If by-all means
prement Curionem, Caesar defendet intercessorem; si, quod
they-will-press Curio Caesar will-defend the-vetoer if as
videntur, reformidarint, Caesar quoad volet manebit.
they-seem they-will-have-shrunk Caesar as-long-as he-will-wish will-stay

4 Quam quisque sententiam dixerit, in commentario est rerum
What each opinion has-spoken in the-journal is of-affairs
urbanarum; ex quo tu quae digna sunt selige; multa transi,
of-the-city from which you what worthy are select many pass-over
in primis ludorum explosiones et funerum et ineptiarum
among the-first of-the-games the-hissings-off and of-funerals and of-follies
ceterarum. Plura habet utilia; denique malo in hanc partem
the-rest More it-has useful finally I-prefer in this direction
errare, ut quae non desideres audias, quam quicquam quod
to-err that what not you-want you-hear than anything which
opus est praetermittatur. Tibi curae fuisse de Sittiano
needed is be-passed-over To-you for-a-care to-have-been about the-Sittian
negotio gaudeo; sed quoniam suspicaris minus certa fide
business I-rejoice but since you-suspect of-less sure good-faith
eos tibi visos, tamquam procurator sic agas rogo.
them to-you to-have-seemed as-if an-agent so act I-ask

Caelius is ashamed to confess Appius' ingratitude: owing him great favors and too greedy to repay them, he declared secret war, sounded Caelius' colleague, and planned with Domitius to offer Pompey a little gift at Caelius' expense. Caelius bound himself to Appius' colleague in the censorship rather than face that ape; Appius blazed up and set Servius Pola to accuse him under the Scantinian law during Caelius' own games, and Caelius at once charged Appius, the censor, under the same law, to the people's applause, and has begun to claim the shrine in Appius' house. He asks Cicero to feel his wrongs as his own.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

Pudet me tibi confiteri et queri de Appi, hominis 1
It-shames me to-you to-confess and to-complain about of-Appius a-man
ingratissimi, iniuriis, qui me odisse, quia magna mihi
most-ungrateful the-wrongs who me to-hate because great to-me
debebat beneficia, coepit et, cum homo avarus ut ea
he-owed favors began and since a-man greedy that them
solveret sibi imperare non posset, occultum bellum mihi
he-should-pay himself to-command not could secret war on-me
indixit, ita occultum tamen ut multi mihi renuntiarent
declared so secret still that many to-me reported
et ipse facile animadverterem male eum de me cogitare.
and myself easily I-noticed ill him about me to-think
Postea quam vero comperi eum conlegium temptasse,
Afterward when indeed I-learned him the-board to-have-sounded
deinde aperte cum quibusdam locutum, cum L. Domitio,
then openly with certain-men to-have-spoken with Lucius Domitius
ut nunc est, mihi inimicissimo homine, deliberare, velle hoc
as now he-is to-me most-hostile a-man to-deliberate to-wish this
munusculum deferre Cn. Pompeio, ipsum reprenderem
little-gift to-offer to-Gnaeus Pompey him I-should-rebuke

et ab eo deprecarer iniuriam, quem vitam mihi debere
and from him beg-off the-wrong whom his-life to-me to-owe
putaram, impetrare a me non potui.
I-had-thought to-obtain from myself not I-could

2 Quid ergo est? tamen quasi aliquot amicis, qui testes erant
What therefore is-it still as-if to-several friends who witnesses were
meorum in illum meritorum, locutus sum. Postea quam
of-my toward him services spoken I-have Afterward when
illum ne quoi satis faceret quidem me dignum habere
him not to-whom enough he-should-do even me worthy to-hold
sensi, malui conlegae eius, homini alienissimo mihi et
I-perceived I-preferred to-the-colleague his a-man most-unconnected to-me and
propter amicitiam tuam non aequissimo, me obligare quam
because-of friendship your not most-fair myself to-bind than
illius simiae vultum subire. Id postquam resciit, excanduit
of-that ape the-face to-undergo That after he-found-out he-blazed-up
et me causam inimicitiarum quaerere clamitavit, ut, si
and me a-cause of-enmities to-seek he-kept-shouting that if
mihi in pecunia minus satis fecisset, per hanc speciem
to-me in money less enough he-had-done through this pretext
simultatis eum consectarer. Postea non destitit accersere
of-feud him I-might-pursue Afterward not he-ceased to-summon
Polam Servium accusatorem, inire cum Domitio consilia.
Pola Servius as-accuser to-enter-into with Domitius plans

3 Quibus cum parum procederet ut ulla lege mihi
To-whom when too-little it-went-forward that under-any law for-me
ponerent accusatorem, compellari ea lege me
they-should-set-up an-accuser to-be-charged under-that law me
voluerunt qua dicere non poterant; insolentissimi
they-wanted under-which to-speak not they-could most-insolent
homines summis Circensibus ludis meis postulandum me
men at-the-height-of the-Circus games my to-be-arraigned me

lege Scantinia curarunt. Vix hoc erat Pola elocutus,
under-the-law Scantinian they-arranged Scarcely this had Pola uttered
cum ego Appium censorem eadem lege postulavi.
when I Appius the-censor under-the-same law arraigned
Quod melius caderet nihil vidi; nam sic est a populo
Which better could-fall-out nothing I-saw for so it-has by the-people
et non infimo quoque approbatum, ut maiorem Appio
and not the-lowest each been-approved that greater to-Appius
dolorem fama quam postulatio attulerit. Praeterea coepi
pain the-talk than the-arraignment brought Besides I-have-begun
sacellum, in domo quod est, ab eo petere.
a-shrine in the-house which is from him to-claim
Conturbat me mora servi huius qui tibi litteras attulit; nam 4
Upsets me the-delay of-slave this who to-you a-letter brought for
acceptis prioribus litteris amplius dies quadraginta mansit.
received the-earlier letter more days forty he-stayed
Quid tibi scribam nescio. Scis Domitio comitiorum
What to-you I-should-write I-know-not You-know to-Domitius of-the-elections
diem timori esse. Te exspecto valde et quam primum videre
the-day for-fear to-be You I-await greatly and as first to-see
cupio. A te peto ut meas iniurias proinde doleas, ut
I-desire From you I-ask that my wrongs just-so you-grieve-for as
me existimas et dolere et ulcisci tuas solere.
me you-reckon both to-grieve-for and to-avenge yours to-be-wont

Caelius congratulates Cicero on his new son-in-law Dolabella, whose faults age and Tullia's modesty will remove. Curio's veto on the provinces ended splendidly: when Marcellus proposed dealing with the tribunes, a full senate went the other way, and Pompey, languid, scarcely knows what he wants; the senate leaned to accepting the candidacy of a man who keeps his army and provinces. Hortensius was dying as Caelius wrote.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Gratulor tibi adfinitate viri medius fidius optimi;
I-congratulate you on-the-connection of-a-man so-help-me god-of-faith most-excellent
nam hoc ego de illo existimo. Cetera porro, quibus
for this I about him judge The-other-things moreover by-which
adhuc ille sibi parum utilis fuit, et aetate iam sunt
so-far he to-himself too-little useful has-been both by-age now have-been
decussa, et consuetudine atque auctoritate tua, pudore
shaken-off and by-intercourse and authority your by-the-modesty
Tulliae, si qua restabunt, confido celeriter sublatum iri;
of-Tullia if any will-remain I-trust quickly removed to-be-going
non est enim pugnax in vitiis neque hebes ad id quod
not he-is for stubborn in faults nor dull to that which
melius sit intellegendum. Deinde, quod maximum est, ego
better is to-be-understood Then what greatest is I
illum valde amo.
him greatly love

2 Voles, Cicero, Curionem nostrum lautum intercessionis
You-will-wish Cicero Curio our a-splendid of-veto
de provinciis exitum habuisse; nam cum de intercessione
about the-provinces outcome to-have-had for when about the-veto
referretur, quae relatio fiebat ex senatus consulto, primaque
it-was-moved which motion was-made from of-the-senate decree and-first

M. Marcelli sententia pronuntiata esset, qui agendum cum
of-Marcus Marcellus the-opinion put had-been who to-be-dealt with
tribunis pl. censebat, frequens senatus in alia omnia iit.
the-tribunes of-the-plebs proposed a-full senate into other all-things went
Stomacho est scilicet Pompeius Magnus nunc ita languenti,
With-stomach is of-course Pompey the-Great now so languishing
ut vix id quod sibi placeat reperiat. Transierant
that scarcely that which to-him may-please he-finds They-had-gone-over
illuc, rationem eius habendam qui neque exercitum neque
thither the-candidacy of-him to-be-taken who neither the-army nor
provincias traderet. Quem ad modum hoc Pompeius
provinces should-hand-over In-what to manner this Pompey
laturus sit, cum cognoscam; quidnam rei publicae
going-to-bear is when I-shall-learn what to-the-thing public
futurum sit, si aut non curet, vos senes divites videritis. Q.
going-to-be is if or not he-care you old-men rich will-see-to-it Quintus
Hortensius, cum has litteras scripsi, animam agebat.
Hortensius when this letter I-wrote soul was-breathing-out

VIII.14 · TOWARD WAR

Capturing Arsaces and storming Seleucia were not worth missing the sight of Domitius' face at his defeat for the augurate, which he thinks Caelius took from him. The great quarrel nears: Pompey will not let Caesar be consul unless he hands over army and provinces, Caesar thinks he cannot be safe without them, and their alliance has broken into war. In civil dissension one should follow the more honorable side, but in arms the stronger; Pompey will have the senate and the courts, Caesar the fearful and desperate, and his army is incomparable. Appius, as censor, is busy with statues and pictures; if neither man goes to the Parthian war, the sword will judge.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Tanti non fuit Arsacen capere et Seleuceam expugnare,
So-much-worth not it-was Arsaces to-capture and Seleucia to-storm
ut earum rerum quae hic gestae sunt spectaculo careres;
that of-those things which here done have-been the-spectacle you-should-miss
numquam tibi oculi doluissent, si in repulsa Domiti vultum
never to-you the-eyes would-have-ached if in the-defeat of-Domitius the-face
vidisses. Magna illa comitia fuerunt, et plane studia ex
you-had-seen Great those elections were and clearly the-zeal from
partium sensu apparuerunt; perpauci necessitudinem secuti
of-the-parties feeling appeared very-few connection following
officium praestiterunt. Itaque mihi est Domitius inimicissimus
duty performed And-so to-me is Domitius most-hostile
ut ne familiarem quidem suum quemquam tam oderit
so-that not friend even his any so he-hates
quam me, atque eo magis quod per iniuriam sibi
as me and by-that more because through wrong from-himself
putat ereptum auguratum, quoius ego auctor fuerim. Nunc
he-thinks snatched the-augurate of-which I the-mover was Now
furit tam gavisos homines suum dolorem unumque move
he-rages so rejoiced men at-his pain and-one me
studiosiorem Antoni; nam Cn. Saturninum adulescentem
more-zealous for-Antonius for Gnaeus Saturninus the-young
ipse Cn. Domitius reum fecit sane quam superiore a
himself Gnaeus Domitius defendant made very much former from
vita invidiosum; quod iudicium nunc in exspectatione est,
life odious which trial now in expectation is
etiam in bona spe post Sex. Peducaei absolutionem.
even in good hope after of-Sextus Peducaeus the-acquittal

De summa re publica saepe tibi scripsi me in 2
About the-whole thing public often to-you I-have-written me into
annum pacem non videre et, quo propius ea contentio
the-year peace not to-see and by-how-much nearer that struggle
quam fieri necesse est accedit, eo clarius id
which to-happen necessary it-is approaches by-that more-clearly that
periculum apparet. Propositum hoc est, de quo qui rerum
danger appears The-issue this is about which who of-affairs
potiuntur sunt dimicaturi, quod Cn. Pompeius constituit
are-masters are going-to-fight that Gnaeus Pompey has-resolved
non pati C. Caesarem consulem aliter fieri nisi
not to-allow Gaius Caesar consul otherwise to-be-made unless
exercitum et provincias tradiderit, Caesari autem
the-army and provinces he-will-have-handed-over to-Caesar however
persuasum est se salvum esse non posse si ab exercitu
persuaded it-is himself safe to-be not to-be-able if from the-army
recesserit; fert illam tamen condicionem, ut ambo
he-will-have-withdrawn he-offers that still condition that both
exercitus tradant. Sic illi amores et invidiosa coniunctio
armies they-hand-over So those loves and odious alliance
non ad occultam recidit obtrectationem, sed ad bellum
not to secret has-fallen-back disparagement but into war
se erupit; neque mearum rerum quid consili capiam
itself has-broken-out nor of-my affairs what of-counsel I-should-take
reperio; quod non dubito quin te quoque haec deliberatio
do-I-find which not I-doubt that you also this deliberation
sit perturbatura. Nam mihi cum hominibus his et gratia
is going-to-disturb For to-me with men these both favor
et necessitudinem cum causam illam unde homines odi.
and connection with the-cause that whence the-men I-hate

3 Illud te non arbitror fugere quin homines in dissensione
That you not I-think to-escape that men in dissension
domestica debeant, quam diu civiliter sine armis
domestic ought as long-as by-civil-means without arms
certetur, honestiorem sequi partem, ubi ad bellum et
it-is-contested the-more-honorable to-follow side when to war and
castra ventum sit, firmiorem et id melius statuere quod
camp come it-has the-stronger and that better to-judge which
tutius sit. In hac discordia video Cn. Pompeium senatum
safer is In this discord I-see Gnaeus Pompey the-senate
quique res iudicant secum habiturum, ad Caesarem
and-those-who cases judge with-himself going-to-have to Caesar
omnis qui cum timore aut mala spe vivant accessuros;
all who with fear or bad hope live going-to-go-over
exercitum conferendum non esse. Omnino satis spati est
army to-be-compared not to-be At-all enough of-space is
ad considerandas utriusque copias et eligendam partem.
for to-be-considered of-each the-forces and to-be-chosen side
4 Prope oblitus sum quod maxime fuit scribendum. Scis
Almost forgotten I-have what most was to-be-written You-know
Appium censorem hic ostenta facere, de signis et tabulis,
Appius the-censor here portents to-do about statues and pictures
de agri modo, de aere alieno acerrime agere? persuasum
about of-land the-limit about money borrowed most-sharply to-act persuaded
est ei censuram lomentum aut nitrum esse. Errare mihi
it-is him the-censorship bean-meal or soda to-be To-err to-me
videtur; nam sordis eluere vult, venas sibi omnis et
he-seems for the-dirt to-wash-out he-wishes veins to-himself all and
viscera aperit. Curre, per deos atque homines! et quam
guts he-opens Run by the-gods and men and as
primum haec risum veni, legis Scantiniae iudicium
first these-things to-laugh-at come of-the-law Scantinian the-trial

apud Drusum fieri, Appium de tabulis et signis agere;
before Drusus to-be-held Appius about pictures and statues to-act
crede mihi, est properandum. Curio noster sapienter id,
believe me there-is need-to-hurry Curio our wisely that
quod remisit de stipendio Pompei, fecisse existimatur. Ad
which he-gave-up about the-pay of-Pompey to-have-done is-thought To
summam, quaeris quid putem futurum. Si alter uter eorum
sum-up you-ask what I-think going-to-be If one or-other of-them
ad Parthicum bellum non eat, video magnas impendere
to the-Parthian war not goes I-see great to-impend
discordias, quas ferrum et vis iudicabit; uterque et animo
discords which the-sword and force will-judge each both in-spirit
et copiis est paratus. Si sine summo periculo fieri posset,
and in-forces is prepared If without highest danger to-happen it-could
magnum et iucundum tibi Fortuna spectaculum parabat.
great and delightful for-you Fortune a-spectacle was-preparing

VIII.15 · CAESAR'S SPEED

Pompey has proved foolish and Caesar keen in action and mild in victory: his soldiers finished a war in the coldest places in a foul winter by marching, and were not fed on dainty apples. Caelius would tell more face to face, and hopes soon, since Caesar, once he has driven Pompey from Italy, means to summon Caelius to the city, unless Pompey prefers to be besieged at Brundisium. He must first go back toward the Alps, where the Intimilii are in arms because Bellienus took a bribe and strangled Domitius, Caesar's guest; he wishes Caesar, born of Venus, had shown against Pompey's Domitius the spirit this son of a slave-girl showed against his.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Ecquando tu hominem ineptiorem quam tuum Cn.

Ever you a-man more-foolish than your Gnaeus

Pompeium vidisti, qui tantas turbas, qui tam nugax esset,

Pompey have-seen who such-great disturbances who so trifling was

commorit? ecquem autem Caesare nostro acriorem in rebus

has-stirred-up anyone however than-Caesar our keener in affairs

gerendis, eodem in victoria temperatiorem aut legisti

to-be-managed the-same in victory more-moderate either have-you-read

aut audisti? Quid est? num tibi nostri milites, qui

or heard What is-it surely-not to-you our soldiers who

durissimis et frigidissimis locis, taeterrima hieme bellum

in-the-hardest and coldest places in-a-most-foul winter the-war

ambulando confecerunt, malis orbiculatis esse pasti

by-walking finished on-apples round to-have-been fed

videntur? 'Quid iam?' inquis. Gloriose omnia. Si scias

seem What now you-say Boastfully all-things If you-knew

quam sollicitus sim, tum hanc meam gloriam quae ad

how anxious I-am then this my boasting which to

me nihil pertinet derideas; quae tibi exponere nisi

me nothing pertains you-would-laugh-at which to-you to-set-out unless

coram non possum, idque celeriter fore spero;

face-to-face not I-can and-that quickly to-be-going-to-be I-hope

nam me, cum expulisset ex Italia Pompeium, constituit

for me when he-had-driven from Italy Pompey he-resolved

ad urbem vocare, id quod iam existimo confectum, nisi

to the-city to-summon that which now I-think finished unless

si maluit Pompeius Brundisi circumsederi.

if preferred Pompey at-Brundisium to-be-besieged

Peream, si minima causa est properandi isto mihi, quod 2
May-I-perish if the-least reason is of-hurrying thither for-me that
te videre et omnia intima conferre discupio, habeo
you to-see and all inmost-things to-share I-am-dying I-have
autem quam multa. Hui vereor, quod solet fieri, ne
however how many Oh I-fear what is-wont to-happen lest
cum te videro omnia obliviscar. Sed tamen quod
when you I-shall-have-seen all I-forget But still what
ob scelus iter mihi necessarium retro ad Alpis
on-account-of crime a-journey for-me necessary back to the-Alps
versus incidit? Ideo quod Intimilii in armis sunt,
toward has-fallen-out For-this-reason that the-Intimilii in arms are
neque de magna causa. Bellienus, verna Demetri, qui
nor about great cause Bellienus home-born-slave of-Demetrius who
ibi cum praesidio erat, Domitium quendam, nobilem illi,
there with a-garrison was Domitius a-certain noble there
Caesaris hospitem, a contraria factione nummis acceptis
of-Caesar a-guest from the-opposite faction coins received
comprendit et strangulavit; civitas ad arma iit; eo
seized and strangled the-community to arms went thither
num cohortibus mihi per nivis eundum est. 'Usque
with cohorts for-me through snows to-be-gone it-is Ever
quaque,' inquis, 'se Domitii male dant.' Vellem quidem
everywhere you-say themselves the-Domitii badly give I-would-wish indeed
Venere prognatus tantum animi habuisset in vestro Domitio
from-Venus descended so-much of-spirit had-had in your Domitius
quantum Psecade natus in hoc habuit. Ciceroni f. s. d.
as-much-as from-Psecas born in this had to-Cicero son greeting says

Alarmed by a letter in which Cicero hinted at some grim plan, Caelius begs him by his children not to take any drastic step about his safety: Caesar, angry with the senate and roused by the vetoes against him, now thinks of nothing but harshness, and there will be no room for pleading. If Cicero values his son, his house, Dolabella, and Caelius, he should not force them to hate the cause in whose victory their safety lies, nor join the routed men he would not follow when they resisted. At least he should wait for the outcome in Spain, which Caesar will win; Caesar takes Caelius with him, and Cicero should choose a town free of war.

Caelius Ciceroni s.

Caelius to-Cicero greeting

1 Exanimatus tuis litteris, quibus te nihil nisi triste cogitare
Alarmed by-your letter in-which you nothing except grim to-be-thinking
ostendisti neque id quid esset perscripsisti neque non tamen
you-showed nor that what it-was you-wrote-out nor not still
quale esset quod cogitares aperuisti, has ad te ilico
of-what-kind it-was what you-were-thinking you-disclosed this to you on-the-spot
litteras scripsi. Per fortunas tuas, Cicero, per liberos te
letter I-have-written By fortunes your Cicero by children you
oro et obsecro ne quid gravius de salute et incolumitate
I-pray and beseech lest anything more-serious about safety and security
tua consulas; nam deos hominesque amicitiamque nostram
your you-decide for gods and-men and-friendship our
testificor me tibi praedixisse neque temere monuisse sed,
I-call-to-witness me to-you to-have-foretold nor rashly to-have-warned but
postquam Caesarem convenerim sententiamque eius qualis
after Caesar I-met and-the-intention his of-what-kind
futura esset parta victoria cognorim, te certiorem fecisse.
going-to-be would-be won the-victory I-learned you more-certain to-have-made
Si existimas eandem rationem fore Caesaris in
If you-think the-same course to-be-going-to-be of-Caesar in

dimittendis adversariis et condicionibus ferendis, erras;
letting-go opponents and terms being-offered you-are-wrong
nihil nisi atrox et saevum cogitat atque etiam loquitur;
nothing except fierce and savage he-thinks and even says
iratus senatui exiit, his intercessionibus plane incitatus
angry at-the-senate he-went-out by-these vetoes clearly roused
est; non me hercules erit deprecationi locus.
he-is not so-help-me Hercules there-will-be for-pleading room
Qua re, si tibi tu, si filius unicus, si domus, si spes 2
By-which thing if to-you you if son only if house if hopes
tuae reliquae tibi carae sunt, si aliquid apud te nos, si
your remaining to-you dear are if anything with you we if
vir optimus, gener tuus, valemus, quorum fortunam
a-man most-excellent son-in-law your we-count of-whom the-fortune
non debes velle conturbare, ut eam causam in quoius
not you-ought to-wish to-throw-into-confusion that that cause in whose
victoria salus nostra est odisse aut relinquere cogamur
victory safety our is to-hate or to-abandon we-be-forced
aut impiam cupiditatem contra salutem tuam habeamus —
or an-impious desire against safety your we-have
denique illud cogita, quod offensae fuerit in ista cunctatione
finally that reflect what of-offense there-was in that hesitation
te subisse; nunc te contra victorem Caesarem facere,
you to-have-incurred now you against the-victor Caesar to-act
quem dubiis rebus laedere noluisti, et ad eos fugatos
whom in-doubtful affairs to-hurt you-were-unwilling and to those routed
accedere, quos resistentis sequi nolueris, summae
to-go-over whom resisting to-follow you-were-unwilling of-highest
stultitiae est. Vide ne, dum pudet te parum optimatem
folly is See lest while it-shames you too-little an-aristocrat
esse, parum diligenter quid optimum sit eligas.
to-be too-little carefully what best is you-choose

3 Quod si totum tibi persuadere non possum, saltem, dum quid
But if wholly you to-persuade not I-can at-least until what
de Hispaniis agamus scitur, exspecta; quas tibi nuntio
about the-Spains we-may-do is-known wait which to-you I-announce
adventu Caesaris fore nostras. Quam isti spem
by-the-arrival of-Caesar to-be-going-to-be ours What those hope
habeant amissis Hispaniis nescio; quod porro tuum consilium
may-have lost the-Spains I-know-not what moreover your plan
sit ad desperatos accedere non medius fidius reperio.
may-be to the-desperate to-go-over not so-help-me god-of-faith do-I-find

4 Hoc quod tu non dicendo mihi significasti Caesar audierat
This which you not by-saying to-me indicated Caesar had-heard
ac, simul atque 'have' mihi dixit, statim quid de te
and as-soon as hail to-me he-said at-once what about you
audisset exposuit. Negavi me scire, sed tamen ab eo petii
he-had-heard he-set-out I-said-not me to-know but still from him I-asked
ut ad te litteras mitteret, quibus maxime ad remanendum
that to you a-letter he-should-send by-which most to remaining
commoveri posses. Me secum in Hispaniam ducit; nam
to-be-moved you-could Me with-himself into Spain he-leads for
nisi ita faceret, ego, prius quam ad urbem accederem,
unless so he-did I sooner than to the-city I-approached
ubicumque esses, ad te percucurrissem et hoc a te
wherever you-were to you I-would-have-raced and this from you
praesens contendissem atque omni vi te retinuissem.
present I-would-have-pressed and with-all force you I-would-have-held-back

5 Etiam atque etiam, Cicero, cogita ne te tuosque
Again and again Cicero reflect lest yourself and-your-people
omnis funditus evertas, ne te sciens prudensque eo
all utterly you-overturn lest yourself knowing and-foreseeing there
demittas unde exitum vides nullum esse. Quod si te aut
you-let-down whence a-way-out you-see none to-be But if you either

voces optimatium commovent aut non nullorum hominum
the-voices of-the-aristocrats move or not of-none of-men
insolentiam et iactationem ferre non potes, eligas censeo
the-insolence and boasting to-bear not you-can you-should-choose I-advise
aliquod oppidum vacuum a bello, dum haec decernuntur;
some town free from war while these-things are-decided
quae iam erunt confecta. Id si feceris, et ego te
which soon will-be finished That if you-will-have-done both I you
sapienter fecisse iudicabo et Caesarem non offendes.
wisely to-have-acted will-judge and Caesar not you-will-offend

VIII.17 · CAELIUS REPENTS

Caelius wishes he had been in Spain rather than at Formiae when Cicero left for Pompey, and blames Curio, whose friendship drew him little by little into this lost cause, while anger and affection took away his good sense. When Caelius came to Cicero by night on his way to Ariminum, Cicero gave him instructions for peace to carry to Caesar but neglected a friend's duty. He does not distrust the cause but would rather die than see these men. Only fear of the Pompeians' cruelty keeps Caesar's side in Rome, where, apart from a few money-lenders, everyone is now Pompeian, and he has brought the plebs over to Pompey's side; the Pompeians sleep and do not see how weak Caesar's side is, while Caesar's troops are used to fighting, cold, and hunger.

Caelius Ciceroni s.
Caelius to-Cicero greeting
Ergo me potius in Hispania fuisse tum quam Formiis, 1
Therefore me rather in Spain to-have-been then than at-Formiae
quom tu profectus es ad Pompeium! quod utinam aut
when you set-out have to Pompey which would-that either
Appius Claudius in ista parte C. Curio, quoius amicitia
Appius Claudius on that side Gaius Curio whose friendship

me paulatim in hanc perditam causam imposuit; nam
me little-by-little into this lost cause has-put for
mihi sentio bonam mentem iracundia et amore ablatam.
from-me I-feel good sense by-anger and love taken-away
Tu, tu porro, cum ad te proficiscens Ariminum noctu
You you moreover when to you setting-out to-Ariminum by-night
venissem, dum mihi pacis mandata das ad Caesarem
I-had-come while to-me of-peace instructions you-give for Caesar
et mirificum civem agis, amici officium neglexisti neque
and the-wonderful citizen you-play of-a-friend the-duty you-neglected nor
mi consuluisti. Neque haec dico quod diffidam huic
for-me did-you-consult Nor these-things I-say because I-distrust this
causae, sed, crede mihi, perire satius est quam hos videre.
cause but believe me to-perish better it-is than these to-see
2 Quod si timor vestrae crudelitatis non esset, eiecti
But if fear of-your cruelty not there-were thrown-out
iam pridem hinc essemus; nam hic nunc praeter
long ago from-here we-would-have-been for here now except
faeneratores paucos nec homo nec ordo quisquam est nisi
money-lenders a-few neither man nor order any is except
Pompeianus. Equidem iam effeci ut maxime plebs
Pompeian For-my-part already I-have-brought-about that most the-plebs
et, qui antea noster fuit, populus vester esset. ‘Cur hoc?’
and which before ours was the-people yours should-be Why this
inquis. Immo reliqua exspectate; vos invitos vincere coegero.
you-say Nay the-rest wait-for you unwilling to-win I-shall-force
Arruntanum me Catonem; vos dormitis nec haec adhuc
an-Arruntan me Cato you sleep nor these-things so-far
mihi videmini intellegere, qua nos pateamus et qua simus
to-me you-seem to-understand where we lie-open and where we-are
imbecilli. Atque hoc nullius praemi spe faciam sed, quod
weak And this of-no reward in-hope I-shall-do but what

apud me plurimum solet valere, doloris atque indignitatis
with me most is-wont to-avail of-pain and of-indignation
causa. Quid istic facitis? proelium exspectatis, quod
for-the-sake What there are-you-doing a-battle you-await which
firmissimum haec? vestras copias non novi; nostri valde
strongest this your forces not I-know ours greatly
depugnare et facile algere et esurire consuerunt.
to-fight-it-out and easily to-be-cold and to-be-hungry are-accustomed

BOOK IX

IX.1 · TO VARRO, ON OLD FRIENDS

Atticus read Cicero Varro's letter, from which he learned where Varro is but not when he will come; he hopes for his arrival as a comfort, though no one but a fool hopes for relief. Since returning to Rome Cicero has made it up with his old friends, his books, which he had dropped from shame at disobeying their precepts; they forgive him and call Varro wiser for staying with them. With them appeased, he hopes to bear what presses and impends if he sees Varro, at Tusculum, Cumae, or even Rome.

Cicero M. Varroni s.

Cicero to-Marcus Varro greeting

Ex iis litteris, quas Atticus a te missas mihi legit, 1

From that letter which Atticus from you sent to-me read

quid ageres et ubi esses cognovi; quando autem

what you-were-doing and where you-were I-learned when however

te visuri essemus, nihil sane ex isdem litteris potui

you going-to-see we-were nothing really from the-same letter I-could

suspicari; in spem tamen venio appropinquare tuum

guess into hope still I-come to-be-approaching your

adventum; qui mihi utinam solacio sit! etsi tot

arrival which to-me would-that for-a-comfort may-be although by-so-many

tantisque rebus urgemur, ut nullam adlevationem quisquam

and-so-great things we-are-pressed that no relief anyone

non stultissimus sperare debeat; sed tamen aut tu potes

not most-foolish to-hope ought but still either you can

me aut ego te fortasse aliqua re iuvare.

me or I you perhaps in-some thing to-help

2 Scito enim me, postea quam in urbem venerim, redisse
Know for me afterward when into the-city I-came to-have-returned
cum veteribus amicis, id est cum libris nostris, in gratiam;
with old friends that is with books our into favor
etsi non idcirco eorum usum dimiseram, quod iis
although not for-this-reason of-them the-use I-had-dropped that with-them
suscenserem, sed quod eorum me subpudebat; videbar
I-was-angry but because of-them me it-made-somewhat-ashamed I-seemed
enim mihi, cum me in res turbulentissimas infidelissimis
for to-myself when myself into affairs most-turbulent with-most-faithless
sociis demisissem, praeceptis illorum non satis paruisse.
allies I-had-let-down to-the-precepts of-them not enough to-have-obeyed
Ignoscunt mihi, revocant in consuetudinem pristinam
They-forgive me they-call-back into intimacy former
teque, quod in eo permanseris, sapientiorem quam me
and-you because in it you-have-remained wiser than me
dicunt fuisse. Quam ob rem, quoniam placatis
they-say to-have-been Which on-account-of thing since appeased
iis utor, videor sperare debere, si te viderim, et
them I-enjoy I-seem to-hope to-be-bound if you I-shall-have-seen both
ea, quae premant, et ea, quae impendeant, me facile
those-things which press and those which impend me easily
laturum. Quam ob rem sive in Tusculano sive in
going-to-bear Which on-account-of thing whether in the-Tusculan-villa or in
Cumano ad te placebit sive, quod minime velim,
the-Cuman-villa at your-place it-will-please or what least I-would-wish
Romae, dum modo simul simus, perficiam profecto ut
at-Rome provided only together we-are I-will-accomplish surely that
id utrique nostrum commodissimum esse diiudicetur.
that for-each of-us most-convenient to-be be-judged

Caninius forgot to collect a letter written at night, and Cicero sends it anyway, though stale. He advises Varro, as himself, to avoid men's eyes: the victors look on them as conquered, and those who grieve at their side's defeat resent that they live. Cicero stays in Rome, suspecting that anyone who saw him leave would say he feared or plotted or could not bear certain men, and habit has callused his stomach. Varro should stay hidden until the rejoicing has spent itself and not come to Baiae, so that they seem to have come to weep, not swim; if no one uses them to build the state, they will write and read of republics.

Cicero Varroni.

Cicero to-Varro

Caninius tuus et idem noster cum ad me pervesperi 1
Caninius your and the-same our when to me very-late-in-the-evening
venisset et se postridie mane ad te iturum esse
had-come and himself the-next-day in-the-morning to you going-to-go to-be
dixisset, dixi ei me daturum litterarum aliquid; mane
had-said I-said to-him me going-to-give of-letter something in-the-morning
ut peteret rogavi. Conscripsi epistulam noctu; nec ille ad me
that he-should-ask I-asked I-wrote a-letter by-night nor he to me
rediit; oblitum credidi. Ac tamen eam ipsam tibi epistulam
returned forgotten I-believed And still that very to-you letter
misissem per meos, nisi audissem ex eodem postridie te
I-would-have-sent through my-people unless I-had-heard from the-same the-next-day you
mane e Tusculano exiturum. At tibi repente paucis
in-the-morning from the-Tusculan-villa going-to-leave But for-you suddenly few
post diebus, cum minime exspectarem, venit ad me Caninius
after days when least I-expected came to me Caninius
mane; proficisci ad te statim dixit. Etsi erat ἔωλος illa
in-the-morning to-set-out to you at-once he-said Although was stale that
epistula, praesertim tantis postea novis rebus adlatis, tamen
letter especially so-great afterward new events reported still

perire lucubrationem meam nolui et eam ipsam Caninio
to-perish night-work my I-was-unwilling and that very to-Caninius
dedi; sed cum eo ut cum homine docto et amantissimo tui
I-gave but with him as with a-man learned and most-loving of-you
locutus ea sum, quae pertulisse illum ad te existimo.
spoken those-things I-have which to-have-carried him to you I-think
2 Tibi autem idem consili do quod mihimet ipsi, ut
To-you however the-same of-counsel I-give as to-me myself that
vitemus oculos hominum, si linguas minus facile possimus;
we-avoid the-eyes of-men if the-tongues less easily we-can
qui enim victoria se efferunt, quasi victos nos
who for in-victory themselves exalt as-if conquered us
intuentur, qui autem victos nostros moleste ferunt, nos
look-on who however conquered our-people ill bear us
dolent vivere. Quaeres fortasse cur, cum haec in urbe
grieve to-be-alive You-will-ask perhaps why when these-things in the-city
sint, non absim quem ad modum tu. Tu enim ipse,
are not I-am-away in-what to manner you You for yourself
qui et me et alios prudentia vincis, omnia, credo, vidisti,
who both me and others in-foresight surpass all-things I-believe saw
nihil te omnino fefellit. Quis est tam Lynceus qui in
nothing you at-all escaped Who is so a-Lynceus who in
tantis tenebris nihil offendat, nusquam incurrat?
such-great darkness nothing may-stumble-on nowhere may-bump
3 Ac mihi quidem iam pridem venit in mentem bellum esse
And to-me indeed long ago came into mind nice to-be
aliquo exire, ut ea, quae agebantur hic quaeque
somewhere to-go-out that those-things which were-being-done here and-which
dicebantur, nec viderem nec audirem. Sed calumniabar
were-being-said neither I-might-see nor hear But I-was-picking-faults
ipse; putabam, qui obviam mihi venisset, ut cuique
myself I-thought who in-the-way me had-come as to-each

commodum esset, suspicaturum aut dicturum, etiam si non
convenient it-was going-to-suspect or going-to-say even if not
suspicaretur: 'Hic aut metuit et ea re fugit aut
he-suspected This-man either is-afraid and for-that reason flees or
aliquid cogitat et habet navem paratam.' Denique, levissime
something he-plots and has a-ship ready Finally most-lightly
qui suspicaretur et qui fortasse me optime novisset, putaret
who should-suspect and who perhaps me best had-known would-think
me idcirco discedere, quod quosdam homines oculi mei
me for-this-reason to-depart because certain men eyes my
ferre non possent. Haec ego suspicans adhuc Romae
to-bear not could These-things I suspecting still at-Rome
maneo, et tamen λεληθότως consuetudo diurna callum iam
remain and still imperceptibly habit daily a-callus now
obduxit stomacho meo. Habes rationem mei consili.
has-drawn-over on-stomach my You-have the-reason of-my plan
Tibi igitur hoc censeo, latendum tantisper ibidem, dum 4
For-you therefore this I-think to-be-hidden so-long in-the-same-place while
effervescit haec gratulatio et simul dum audiamus
boils-over this rejoicing and at-the-same-time until we-hear
quem ad modum negotium confectum sit; confectum
in-what to manner the-business finished has-been finished
enim esse existimo. Magni autem intererit qui fuerit
for to-be I-think Of-great however it-will-matter what was
victoris animus, qui exitus rerum; quamquam quo me
of-the-victor the-mind what the-outcome of-affairs although where me
coniectura ducat habeo, sed exspecto tamen.
conjecture leads I-have but I-wait still
Te vero nolo, nisi ipse rumor iam raucus erit factus, 5
You indeed I-do-not-want unless the-very rumor now hoarse will-have become
ad Baias venire; erit enim nobis honestius, etiam cum
to Baiae to-come it-will-be for for-us more-honorable even when

hinc discesserimus, videri venisse in illa loca ploratum
from-here we-shall-have-departed to-seem to-have-come into those places to-weep
potius quam natatum. Sed haec tu melius; modo nobis
rather than to-swim But these-things you better only for-us
stet illud, una vivere in studiis nostris, a quibus antea
let-stand that together to-live in pursuits our from which before
delectationem modo petebamus, nunc vero etiam salutem; non
pleasure only we-sought now indeed also safety not
deesse, si quis adhibere volet, non modo ut architectos
to-be-wanting if anyone to-call-in will-wish not only as architects
verum etiam ut fabros ad aedificandam rem publicam et
but even as workmen for building the-thing public and
potius libenter accurrere; si nemo utetur opera, tamen et
rather gladly to-run-up if no-one will-use the-help still both
scribere et legere πολιτείας et, si minus in curia atque
to-write and to-read republics and if less in the-senate-house and
in foro, at in litteris et libris, ut doctissimi veteres
in the-forum yet in letters and books as the-most-learned ancients
fecerunt, gnavare rem p. et de moribus ac legibus
did to-serve the-thing public and about morals and laws
quaerere. Mihi haec videntur; tu quid sis acturus et
to-inquire To-me these-things seem you what you-are going-to-do and
quid tibi placeat pergratum erit si ad me scripseris.
what to-you may-please most-welcome it-will-be if to me you-write

Cicero sends a line by Caninius: he will come to Varro soon, though perhaps it is wrong for them to be at a resort amid the city's burning; still, those who do not know them will talk wherever they are, and with all men wallowing in crime their leisure should not be blamed. He will ignore the ignorance of barbarians and pursue their arts, which now bear richer fruit, as medicine is valued in sickness. But why send this to Varro, owls to Athens, except to get an answer.

Cicero Varroni.

Cicero to-Varro

Etsi quid scriberem non habebam, tamen Caninio ad te 1

Although what I-should-write not I-had still to-Caninius to you

eunti non potui nihil dare. Quid ergo potissimum scribam?

going not I-could nothing to-give What therefore above-all will-I-write

Quod velle te puto, cito me ad te esse venturum; etsi

What to-want you I-think quickly me to you to-be going-to-come although

vide, quaeso, satisne rectum sit nos hoc tanto incendio

see I-beg whether-enough right it-is us in-this so-great conflagration

civitatis in istis locis esse; dabimus sermonem iis, qui

of-the-state in those places to-be we-shall-give talk to-those who

nesciunt nobis, quocumque in loco simus, eundem cultum,

know-not for-us whatever in place we-are the-same style

eundem victum esse. 'Quid refert? tamen in sermonem

the-same living to-be What does-it-matter still into talk

incidemus.' Valde id, credo, laborandum est ne, cum omnes

we-shall-fall Greatly that I-believe to-be-worked-for is lest when all

in omni genere et scelerum et flagitiorum volutentur,

in every kind both of-crimes and of-outrages wallow

nostra nobiscum aut inter nos cessatio vituperetur.

our with-ourselves or among us idleness be-blamed

2 Ego vero neglecta barbarorum inscitia persequar; quamvis
I indeed disregarded of-the-barbarians the-ignorance will-follow-on however
enim sint haec misera, quae sunt miserrima, tamen
for may-be these-things wretched which are most-wretched still
artes nostrae nescio quo modo nunc uberiores fructus
arts our I-know-not in-what way now richer fruits
ferre videntur quam olim ferebant, sive quia nulla nunc
to-bear seem than formerly they-bore whether because in-no now
in re alia adquiescimus, sive quod gravitas morbi facit
in thing other we-find-rest or because the-severity of-the-disease makes
ut medicinae egeamus, eaque nunc appareat, cuius vim non
that of-medicine we-have-need and-it now appears whose power not
sentiebamus cum valebamus. Sed quid ego nunc haec ad te,
we-felt when we-were-well But why I now these-things to you
cuius domi nascuntur, γλαῦκ' εἰς Ἀθήνας? Nihil scilicet nisi
at-whose home are-born owls to Athens Nothing of-course except
ut rescriberes aliquid, me exspectares. Sic igitur facies.
that you-should-write-back something me you-should-expect So therefore you-will-do

IX.4 · ON POSSIBLES

On possibles Cicero judges with Diodorus: if Varro is coming, he must come, and if not, his coming is impossible. Varro may choose which judgment pleases him, Chrysippus' or this, which Diodotus could not digest; they will discuss it at leisure, which is also possible according to Chrysippus. Cicero is grateful about Coctius. If Varro does not come, Cicero will run to him; with a garden in his library, nothing will be lacking.

Cicero Varroni.

Cicero to-Varro

Περὶ δυνατῶν me scito κατὰ Διόδωρον κρίνειν. Quapropter 1
About possibles me know according-to Diodorus to-judge Wherefore
si venturus es, scito necesse esse te venire; sin autem
if going-to-come you-are know necessary to-be you to-come but-if however
non es, ἀδύνατον est te venire. Nunc vide utra
not you-are impossible it-is you to-come Now see which-of-two
te κρίσις magis delectet, Chrysippi an haec, quam noster
you judgment more delights of-Chrysippus or this which our
Diodotus non concoquebat. Sed de his etiam rebus, otiosi
Diodotus not could-digest But about these also things at-leisure
cum erimus, loquemur; hoc etiam κατὰ Χρύσιππον
when we-shall-be we-shall-talk this also according-to Chrysippus
δυνατόν est. De Coctio mihi gratum est; nam id etiam
possible is About Coctius to-me pleasing it-is for that also
Attico mandaram. Tu si minus ad nos, nos accurremus
to-Atticus I-had-commissioned You if less to us we will-run
ad te; si hortum in bybliotheca habes, deerit nihil.
to you if a-garden in the-library you-have will-be-lacking nothing

IX.5 · NO REGRETS

The Nones suit Cicero well, for the state of things and the season, and he will keep to that day. They need not regret their course even if those who did not follow it regret nothing: they followed duty, not hope, and left off despair, not duty, more scrupulous than those who never stirred from home, saner than those who would not return after losing all. Cicero fears the reproach of those who died in the war more than he minds those idle critics whom he displeases by living. He will see Varro at Tusculum or follow to Cumae, and send word to have the bath ready.

Cicero Varroni.

Cicero to-Varro

1 Mihi vero ad Nonas bene maturum videtur fore, neque
To-me indeed at the-Nones well timely it-seems to-be-going-to-be nor
solum propter rei p. sed etiam propter anni tempus;
only because-of of-the-thing public but also because-of of-the-year the-season
qua re istum diem probo, itaque eundem ipse sequar.
by-which thing that day I-approve and-so the-same myself I-shall-follow

2 Consili nostri, ne si eos quidem, qui id secuti non sunt,
Of-plan our not if those even who it followed not have
non paeniteret, nobis paenitendum putarem; secuti enim
not it-repented by-us to-be-repented I-would-think followed for
sumus non spem sed officium, reliquimus autem non
we-have not hope but duty we-left however not
officium sed desperationem. Ita verecundiores fuimus quam
duty but despair So more-scrupulous we-were than
qui se domo non commoverunt, saniores quam qui
who themselves from-home not stirred saner than who
amissis opibus domum non reverterunt. Sed nihil minus
lost their-resources home not returned But nothing less
fero quam severitatem otiosorum et, quoquo modo se
do-I-bear than the-severity of-the-idle and in-whatever way itself
res habet, magis illos vereor, qui in bello occiderunt,
the-thing holds more those I-fear who in war fell
quam hos curo, quibus non satis facimus, quia vivimus.
than these I-care-for to-whom not enough we-do because we-live

3 Mihi si spatium fuerit in Tusculanum ante Nonas
To-me if time there-will-be into the-Tusculan-villa before the-Nones
veniendi, istic te videbo; si minus, persequar in Cumanum
of-coming there you I-shall-see if less I-shall-follow into the-Cuman-villa
et ante te certiorem faciam, ut lavatio parata sit.
and before you more-certain I-shall-make that the-bath ready be

Caninius asked Cicero to write what Varro should know: Caesar's return is expected; his friends wrote to dissuade him from coming to Alsium, where many would trouble him, and Ostia seems more convenient for landing. Cicero tells this so that Varro may prepare lodging, and to show that he is in their counsels. He grieved with Varro at the war's ruin and feared the cruelty of their own side's victory, since even the idlest among them threatened cruelly. Varro alone is in harbor, reaping learning's fruits; his Tusculan days are worth a lifetime, and if the state will not use them they may return to that life.

Cicero Varroni.

Cicero to-Varro

Caninius noster me tuis verbis admonuit, ut scriberem ad 1
Caninius our me in-your words reminded that I-should-write to
te, si quid esset quod putarem te scire oportere. Est
you if anything there-was which I-thought you to-know ought Is
igitur adventus Caesaris scilicet in exspectatione, neque tu
therefore the-arrival of-Caesar of-course in expectation nor you
id ignoras. Sed tamen, cum ille scripsisset, ut opinor,
that are-unaware-of But still when he had-written as I-think
se in Alsiense venturum, scripserunt ad eum sui ne
himself to his-Alsian-villa going-to-come wrote to him his-people lest
id faceret; multos ei molestos fore ipsumque
that he-should-do many to-him troublesome to-be-going-to-be and-himself
multis; Ostiae videri commodius eum exire posse. Id
to-many at-Ostia to-seem more-conveniently him to-disembark to-be-able That
ego non intellegebam quid interesset; sed tamen Hirtius mihi
I not understood what it-mattered but still Hirtius to-me
dixit et se ad eum et Balbum et Oppium scripsisse
said both himself to him and Balbus and Oppius to-have-written
ut ita faceret, homines, ut cognovi, amantis tui.
that so he-should-do men as I-have-learned loving of-you

2 Hoc ego idcirco nosse te volui, ut scires hospitium
This I for-this-reason to-know you I-wished that you-might-know lodging
tibi ubi parares, vel potius ut utrubique (quid
for-yourself where you-should-prepare or rather that in-both-places what
enim ille facturus sit incertum est), et simul
for he going-to-do is uncertain it-is and at-the-same-time
ostentavi tibi me istis esse familiarem et consiliis
I-have-displayed to-you me to-those to-be intimate and in-plans
eorum interesse. Quod ego cur nolim nihil video; non
their to-take-part Which I why I-should-not-wish nothing I-see not
enim est idem ferre, si quid ferendum est, et probare,
for it-is the-same to-bear if anything to-be-borne is and to-approve
si quid non probandum est. Etsi quid non probem
if anything not to-be-approved is Although what not I-may-approve
equidem iam nescio, praeter initia rerum; nam haec
for-my-part now I-know-not except the-beginnings of-affairs for these
in voluntate fuerunt. Vidi enim (nam tu aberas) nostros
in choice were I-saw for for you were-away our
amicos cupere bellum, hunc autem non tam cupere
friends to-desire war this-man however not so-much to-desire
quam non timere (ergo haec consili fuerunt, reliqua
as not to-fear therefore these-things of-choice were the-rest
necessaria), vincere autem aut hos aut illos necesse esse.
necessary to-win moreover either these or those necessary to-be
3 Scio te semper mecum in luctu fuisse, cum videremus
I-know you always with-me in grief to-have-been when we-saw
quom illud ingens malum, alterius utrius exercitus et
both that huge evil of-the-one or-other army and
ducum interitum, tum vero extremum malorum omnium
of-leaders the-destruction and indeed the-last of-evils all
esse civilis belli victoriam; quam quidem ego etiam illorum
to-be of-civil war the-victory which indeed I even of-those

timebam, ad quos veneramus; crudeliter enim otiosissimi
feared to whom we-had-come cruelly for the-most-idle
minabantur, eratque iis et tua invisa voluntas et mea
they-threatened and-was to-them both your hated disposition and my
oratio; nunc vero, si essent nostri potiti, valde intemperantes
speech now indeed if had our-side prevailed very unrestrained
fuissent, erant enim nobis perirati; quasi quicquam
they-would-have-been they-were for with-us very-angry as-if anything
de nostra salute decrevissemus, quod non idem illis
about our safety we-had-decreed which not the-same for-them
censuissemus, aut quasi utilius rei p. fuerit eos
we-had-voted or as-if more-useful to-the-thing public it-was them
etiam ad bestiarum auxilium confugere quam vel emori
even to of-beasts the-aid to-flee than either to-die
vel cum spe, si non optima, at aliqua tamen vivere.
or with hope if not the-best yet some still to-live
At in perturbata re p. vivimus. Quis negat? sed hoc 4
But in a-disordered thing public we-live Who denies-it but this
viderint ii, qui nulla sibi subsidia ad omnis vitae
let-them-see-to those who no for-themselves supports for all of-life
status paraverunt; huc enim ut venirem, superior longius
the-states have-provided hither for that I-might-come the-earlier farther
quam volui fluxit oratio. Cum enim te semper magnum
than I-wished flowed talk Both for you always a-great
hominem duxi, tum quod his tempestatibus es prope
man I-have-held and because in-these storms you-are almost
solus in portu fructusque doctrinae percipis eos qui maximi
alone in harbor and-the-fruits of-learning you-reap those which greatest
sunt, ut ea consideres eaque tractes, quorum et usus
are that those-things you-consider and-those handle of-which both the-use
et delectatio est omnibus istorum et actis et voluptatibus
and delight is to-all of-those both acts and pleasures

anteponenda. Equidem hos tuos Tusculanensis dies instar
to-be-preferred For-my-part these your Tusculan days the-equal
esse vitae puto libenterque omnibus omnis opes concesserim,
to-be of-life I-think and-gladly to-all all resources I-would-yield
ut mihi liceat vi nulla interpellante isto modo vivere;
that for-me it-be-allowed force no interrupting in-that way to-live
5 quod nos quoque imitamur, ut possumus, et in nostris
which we also imitate as we-can and in our
studiis libentissime conquiescimus. Quis enim hoc non
pursuits most-gladly we-find-repose Who for this not
dederit nobis ut, cum opera nostra patria sive non possit
would-grant us that when the-help our country whether not can
uti sive nolit, ad eam vitam revertamur, quam multi docti
to-use or will-not to that life we-return which many learned
homines fortasse non recte, sed tamen multi etiam rei
men perhaps not rightly but still many even to-the-thing
p. praeponendam putaverunt? Quae igitur studia magnorum
public to-be-preferred have-thought Which therefore pursuits of-great
hominum sententia vacationem habent quandam publici
men in-the-opinion exemption have a-certain from-public
muneris, iis concedente re p. cur non abutamur?
office to-them granting the-thing public why not should-we-make-full-use
6 Sed plus facio quam Caninius mandavit, iure enim, si
But more I-do than Caninius charged rightly for if
quid ego scirem, rogarat, quod tu nescires, ego tibi
anything I knew he-had-asked which you did-not-know I to-you
ea narro, quae tu melius scis quam ipse, qui narro.
those-things tell which you better know than myself who tell
Faciam ergo illud, quod rogatus sum, ut eorum, quae
I-will-do therefore that which asked I-have-been that of-those-things which
temporis huius sint, quae tua audiero, ne quid ignores.
of-time this are which yours I-shall-hear lest anything you-be-unaware-of

Dining at Seius' house, Cicero and Seius both received Varro's letters. It is time: Cicero wanted to be near if anything could be saved, two going together; now that all is finished, they must go at it with horse and men. Hearing of Lucius Caesar's son, he asked with the comedian what this man will do to him, a father, and so he dines often with the men now in power, serving the time. He fears everything with Africa quaking, as the line goes. Where Caesar will land no one knows, by Sardinia or by Sicily to Velia; Dolabella, arriving, will be Cicero's teacher, as many pupils surpass their teachers.

Cicero Varroni.

Cicero to-Varro

Cenabam apud Seium, cum utrique nostrum redditae sunt 1
I-was-dining at Seius' when to-each of-us delivered was
a te litterae. Mihi vero iam maturum videtur; nam
from you a-letter To-me indeed now timely it-seems for
quod ante calumniatus sum, indicabo malitiam meam;
as-to-what before picked-faults I-have I-will-disclose craftiness my
volebam prope alicubi esse, si quid bonae salutis, σύν
I-wanted near somewhere to-be if anything of-good safety together
τε δύ' ἐρχομένω; nunc quoniam confecta sunt omnia,
and two going now since finished are all-things
dubitandum non est quin equis viris. Nam ut audivi
to-be-doubted not it-is that with-horses with-men For when I-heard
de L. Caesare filio, mecum ipse:
about Lucius Caesar the-son with-me myself

'Quid hic mihi faciet patri?'
What this-one to-me will-do to-the-father

itaque non desino apud istos, qui nunc dominantur, cenitare.
and-so not I-cease at those who now are-masters to-dine-regularly

2 Quid faciam? tempori serviendum est. Sed ridicula
What can-I-do to-the-time to-be-served it-is But laughable-things
missa, praesertim cum sit nihil quod rideamus:
dismissed especially since there-is nothing which we-may-laugh-at

'Africa terribili tremit horrida terra tumultu.'
Africa with-terrible trembles rough land with-tumult

Itaque nullum est ἀποπροηγμένον quod non verear. Sed
And-so no is rejected-thing which not I-may-fear But
quod quaeris, quando, qua, quo, nihil adhuc scimus.
as-to-what you-ask when by-what-way whither nothing as-yet we-know
Istuc ipsum de Baiis, non nulli dubitant an per Sardiniam
That very about Baiae not none doubt whether through Sardinia
veniat; illud enim adhuc praedium suum non inspexit nec
he-may-come that for as-yet estate his not he-has-inspected nor
ullum habet deterius, sed tamen non contemnit. Ego omnino
any he-has worse but still not he-despises-it I altogether
magis arbitror per Siciliam Veliam, sed iam sciemus;
rather I-think through Sicily to-Velia but soon we-shall-know
adventat enim Dolabella. Eum puto magistrum fore.
is-arriving for Dolabella Him I-think a-teacher to-be-going-to-be

Πολλοὶ μαθηταὶ κρείσσονες διδασκάλων.
Many pupils better than-teachers

Sed tamen, si sciam quid tu constitueris, meum consilium
But still if I-know what you have-decided my plan
accommodabo potissimum ad tuum; qua re exspecto
I-will-fit above-all to yours by-which thing I-await
tuas litteras.
your letter

Not even the people demand a promised show unless roused, but Cicero sends Varro four reminders, the books of the Academy, to prompt the work he promised. He has written a dialogue held between them at his Cuman villa with Atticus present, giving Varro the part of Antiochus and himself Philo's, though they never said it; Varro knows the custom of dialogues. Let Fortune bear the state's cause; their talk they can provide themselves; with these studies life is scarcely bearable, and without them not even that. He wishes Varro's move and purchase well.

Cicero Varroni.

Cicero to-Varro

Etsi munus flagitare, quamvis quis ostenderit, ne populus 1
Although a-show to-demand however-much anyone has-promised not the-people
quidem solet nisi concitatus, tamen ego exspectatione
even is-wont unless roused still I by-expectation
promissi tui moveor ut admoneam te, non ut flagitem.
of-the-promise your am-moved to remind you not to demand
Misi autem ad te quattuor admonitores non nimis
I-have-sent however to you four reminders not too
verecundos; nosti enim profecto os illius adulescentioris
modest you-know for surely the-face of-that younger
Academiae. Ex ea igitur media excitatos misi;
Academy From it therefore the-middle roused I-have-sent-them
qui metuo ne te forte flagitent; ego autem mandavi
who I-fear lest you perhaps may-demand I however charged-them
ut rogarent. Exspectabam omnino iam diu meque
that they-should-ask I-was-expecting altogether now for-long and-myself
sustinebam, ne ad te prius ipse quid scriberem quam
was-holding-back lest to you sooner myself anything I-should-write than
aliquid accepissem, ut possem te remunerari quam
something I-had-received that I-could you to-repay as

simillimo munere; sed cum tu tardius faceres, id est,
most-similar with-a-gift but since you more-slowly were-acting that is
ut ego interpretor, diligentius, teneri non potui quin
as I interpret more-carefully to-be-restrained not I-could but-that
coniunctionem studiorum amorisque nostri quo possem
the-union of-pursuits and-of-love our by-what I-could
litterarum genere declararem. Feci igitur sermonem inter
of-literature kind I-should-declare I-have-made therefore a-conversation between
nos habitum in Cumano, cum esset una Pomponius; tibi
us held in the-Cuman-villa when was together Pomponius to-you
dedi partis Antiochinas, quas a te probari intellexisse
I-have-given the-part of-Antiochus which by you to-be-approved to-have-understood
mihi videbar; mihi sumpsi Philonis. Puto fore ut, cum
to-myself I-seemed to-myself I-took that-of-Philo I-think it-will-be that when
legeris, mirere nos id locutos esse inter nos, quod
you-have-read you-will-wonder us that spoken to-have between ourselves which
numquam locuti sumus; sed nosti morem dialogorum.
never spoken have-we but you-know the-custom of-dialogues

2 Posthac autem, mi Varro, quam plurima, si videtur,
Hereafter however my Varro as most if it-seems-good
et de nobis inter nos, sero fortasse; sed superiorum
both about ourselves between ourselves late perhaps but of-the-earlier
temporum Fortuna rei p. causam sustineat, haec
times Fortune of-the-thing public the-cause let-sustain these-things
ipsi praestare debemus. Atque utinam quietis temporibus
ourselves to-provide we-ought And would-that in-quiet times
atque aliquo, si non bono, at saltem certo statu civitatis
and in-some if not good yet at-least settled state of-the-state
haec inter nos studia exercere possemus! quamquam tum
these between us pursuits to-pursue we-could although then
quidem vel aliae quaepiam rationes honestas nobis et
indeed either other some methods honorable to-us both

curas et actiones darent; nunc autem quid est sine his
cares and activities would-give now however what is-there without these
cur vivere velimus? mihi vero cum his ipsis vix, his
why to-live we-should-wish to-me indeed with these very scarcely these
autem detractis ne vix quidem. Sed haec coram et
however taken-away not scarcely even But these-things face-to-face and
saepius. Migrationem et emptionem feliciter evenire volo
more-often The-move and the-purchase happily to-turn-out I-wish
tuumque in ea re consilium probo. Cura ut valeas.
and-your in that matter plan I-approve Take-care that you-are-well

IX.9 · DOLABELLA'S COUNSEL

Dolabella, in Caesar's camp, reports that Tullia is well and Terentia has recovered. He should never be suspected of urging Cicero, for party's sake rather than Cicero's own, to join Caesar or withdraw into retirement, and with victory now leaning he can only seem to urge what duty will not let him keep silent. Pompey's name, deeds, and client kings have not saved him; driven from Italy, the Spains lost, and his veteran army captured, he is now walled in. Cicero has done enough for duty, friendship, and his party: if Pompey is driven on again, let him retire to Athens or some quiet city, and whatever his standing needs he will easily win from Caesar himself, with Dolabella's prayers to help.

Dolabella s. d. Ciceroni.
Dolabella greeting says to-Cicero
S. v. g. v. et Tullia nostra recte v. Terentia 1
If you-are-well I-am-glad I-am-well and Tullia our rightly is-well Terentia
minus belle habuit, sed certum scio iam convaluisse eam;
less nicely has-been but certain I-know now to-have-recovered her
praeterea rectissime sunt apud te omnia. Etsi nullo tempore
besides most-rightly are with you all Although at-no time
in suspicionem tibi debui venire partium causa potius
into suspicion to-you I-ought to-come of-the-party for-the-sake rather

quam tua tibi suadere, ut te aut cum Caesare nobiscumque
than your to-you to-urge that you either with Caesar and-with-us
coniungeres aut certe in otium referres, praecipue
you-should-join or certainly into retirement you-should-withdraw especially
nunc iam inclinata victoria ne possum quidem in ullam
now already with-inclined victory not I-can even into any
aliam incidere opinionem nisi in eam, in qua scilicet tibi
other to-fall opinion except into that in which of-course you
suadere videar quod pie tacere non possim. Tu autem,
to-urge I-may-seem what dutifully to-keep-silent not I-can You however
mi Cicero, sic haec accipies ut, sive probabuntur
my Cicero thus these-things you-will-take that whether they-will-be-approved
tibi sive non probabuntur, ab optimo certe animo ac
by-you or not they-will-be-approved by the-best certainly mind and
deditissimo tibi et cogitata et scripta esse iudices.
most-devoted to-you both thought and written to-have-been you-may-judge

2 Animadvertis Cn. Pompeium nec nominis sui nec
You-observe Gnaeus Pompey neither of-name his-own nor
rerum gestarum gloria neque etiam regum ac nationum
of-things done by-the-glory nor even of-kings and of-nations
clientelis, quas ostentare crebro solebat, esse tutum, et
by-the-clientships which to-display frequently he-was-accustomed to-be safe and
hoc etiam, quod infimo cuique contigit, illi non posse
this also which to-the-lowest each has-befallen to-him not to-be-able
contingere, ut honeste effugere possit, pulso Italia, amissis
to-befall that honorably to-escape he-can driven from-Italy with-lost
Hispaniis, capto exercitu veterano, circumvallato nunc
the-Spains with-captured army veteran hemmed-in now
denique, quod nescio an nulli umquam nostro acciderit
at-last which I-know-not whether to-no ever our has-happened
imperatori. Quam ob rem quid aut ille sperare possit
general Which on-account-of thing what either he to-hope can

aut tu animum adverte pro tua prudentia; sic enim facillime
or you mind turn by your prudence thus for most-easily
quod tibi utilissimum erit consili capies. Illud autem
what to-you most-useful will-be of-counsel you-will-take That however
a te peto, ut, si iam ille evitaverit hoc periculum et
from you I-ask that if now he will-have-avoided this danger and
se abdiderit in classem, tu tuis rebus consulas et
himself will-have-hidden in the-fleet you your-own interests consult and
aliquando tibi potius quam cuivis sis amicus. Satis
at-last to-yourself rather than to-anyone you-be friend Enough
factum est iam a te vel officio vel familiaritati, satis
done has-been now by you either to-duty or to-friendship enough
factum etiam partibus et ei rei p., quam tu probabas;
done also to-the-party and to-that thing public which you approved
reliquum est, ubi nunc est res p., ibi simus potius 3
remaining it-is where now is the-thing public there we-should-be rather
quam, dum illam veterem sequamur, simus in nulla.
than while that old we-follow we-should-be in none
Qua re velim, mi iucundissime Cicero, si forte
By-which thing I-would-wish my most-delightful Cicero if by-chance
Pompeius pulsus his quoque locis rursus alias regiones
Pompey driven from-these also places again other regions
petere cogatur, ut tu te vel Athenas vel in quamvis
to-seek should-be-compelled that you yourself either to-Athens or into any
quietam recipias civitatem. Quod si eris facturus,
quiet you-withdraw city But if you-will-be going-to-do
velim mihi scribas, ut ego, si ullo modo potero, ad te
I-would-wish to-me you-write that I if by-any way I-shall-be-able to you
advolem. Quaecumque de tua dignitate ab imperatore erunt
I-may-fly Whatever-things about your standing from the-general will-be
impetranda, qua est humanitate Caesar, facillimum erit
to-be-obtained with-what he-is kindness Caesar most-easy it-will-be

ab eo tibi ipsi impetrare, et meas tamen preces apud eum
from him for-you yourself to-obtain and my still prayers with him
non minimum auctoritatis habituras puto. Erit tuae quoque
not the-least of-influence going-to-have I-think It-will-be of-your also
fidei et humanitatis curare ut is tabellarius, quem ad te
faith and kindness to-take-care that that courier whom to you
misi, reverti possit ad me et a te mihi litteras referat.
I-sent to-return may-be-able to me and from you to-me a-letter may-bring-back

IX.10 · NICIAS AND VIDIUS

Cicero writes to Dolabella only so that Salvius does not go without a letter: nothing is happening at Rome, unless he wants to hear that Cicero is judging between Nicias and Vidius. Vidius produces two little verses recording money paid out to Nicias, and Nicias, like Aristarchus, would strike them out as spurious. Cicero imagines Dolabella asking whether he has forgotten the mushrooms at Nicias' house; his old severity is not so far gone, but he will save their companion. Rome was anxious about Publius Sulla's death until it knew for certain and has stopped asking how he died; Cicero fears only that Caesar's auction spear has gone cold.

M. Cicero s. d. P. Dolabellae.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Publius Dolabella
1 Non sum ausus Salvio nostro nihil ad te litterarum
Not I-have dared to-Salvius our nothing to you of-letters
dare; nec me hercule habebam quid scriberem, nisi
to-give nor so-help-me Hercules I-had what I-should-write except
te a me mirabiliter amari, de quo etiam nihil
that-you by me wonderfully to-be-loved about which even with-nothing
scribente me te non dubitare certo scio. Omnino
writing me that-you not to-doubt for-certain I-know Altogether
mihi magis litterae sunt exspectandae a te quam a me
by-me more letters are to-be-awaited from you than from me

tibi; nihil enim Romae geritur quod te putem scire
by-you nothing for at-Rome is-done which that-you I-should-think to-know
curare, nisi forte scire vis me inter Niciam nostrum
to-care-for unless perhaps to-know you-wish that-I between Nicias our
et Vidium iudicem esse. Profert alter, opinor, duobus
and Vidius judge to-be Brings-forward the-one I-suppose in-two
versiculis expensum Niciae, alter Aristarchus hos ὀβελίζει;
little-verses paid-out to-Nicias the-other an-Aristarchus them obelizes
ego tamquam criticus antiquus iudicaturus sum utrum sint
I as-if a-critic ancient going-to-judge am whether they-are
τοῦ ποιητοῦ an παρεμβεβλημένοι. Puto te nunc dicere:
of-the poet or interpolated I-think that-you now to-say
'Oblitusne es igitur fungorum illorum, quos apud Niciam, 2
Forgotten-then have-you therefore the-mushrooms those which at Nicias'
et ingentium cularum cum sophia septimae?' Quid ergo?
and of-the-huge prawns with wisdom of-the-seventh What therefore
tu adeo mihi excussam severitatem veterem putas, ut ne
you so-far from-me shaken-off severity old do-you-think that not
in foro quidem reliquiae pristinae frontis appareant? Sed
in the-forum even the-remains of-the-former brow appear But
tamen suavissimum συμβιωτὴν nostrum praestabo integellum
still most-delightful companion our I-will-deliver quite-unharmed
nec committam ut, si ego eum condemnaro, tu restituas,
nor I-will-permit that if I him will-have-condemned you may-restore
ne habeat Bursa Plancus apud quem litteras discat.
lest may-have Bursa Plancus with whom letters he-may-learn
Sed quid ago? cum mihi sit incertum tranquillone sis 3
But what am-I-doing since to-me it-is uncertain whether-tranquil you-are
animo an ut in bello in aliqua maiuscula cura negotiove
in-mind or as in war in some rather-large care or-business
versere, labor longius. Cum igitur mihi erit exploratum
you-are-engaged I-slip too-far When therefore to-me it-will-be ascertained

te libenter esse risurum, scribam ad te pluribus.
that-you gladly to-be going-to-laugh I-will-write to you at-more-length
Te tamen hoc scire volo, vehementer populum sollicitum
You still this to-know I-wish greatly that-the-people anxious
fuisse de P. Sullae morte ante quam certum scierit.
to-have-been about Publius Sulla's death before than for-certain it-knew
Nunc quaerere desierunt quo modo perierit; satis putant
Now to-ask they-have-stopped in-what way he-died enough they-think
se scire quod sciunt. Ego ceteroqui animo aequo
that-they to-know what they-know I otherwise with-mind even
fero; unum vereor, ne hasta Caesaris refrixerit.
bear(-it) one-thing I-fear lest the-spear of-Caesar has-grown-cold

IX.11 · A HEAVY BLOW

Cicero would rather Dolabella missed his letters through his own death than through the misfortune that has struck him so heavily, which he would bear more calmly with Dolabella beside him. He will soon see him; he is not broken, but the cheerfulness Dolabella loved has been snatched from him, though his firmness remains. Dolabella writes that he fights battles on his behalf: Cicero cares less that his detractors be refuted than that it be understood that Dolabella loves him, and he asks him to excuse a short letter, since he is not yet strong enough to write.

Cicero Dolabellae s.
Cicero to-Dolabella greeting
1 Vel meo ipsius interitu mallem litteras meas desiderares
Even by-my own death I-would-prefer letters my you-should-miss
quam eo casu, quo sum gravissime adflictus;
than by-that misfortune by-which I-have-been most-heavily struck
quem ferrem certe moderatius, si te haberem; nam et
which I-would-bear certainly more-calmly if you I-had for both

oratio tua prudens et amor erga me singularis multum
talk your wise and love toward me singular much
levaret. Sed quoniam brevi tempore, ut opinio nostra
would-lighten(-it) But since in-short time as opinion our
est, te sum visurus, ita me adfectum offendes, ut multum
is you I-am going-to-see so me affected you-will-find that much
a te possim iuvari; non quo ita sim fractus, ut aut
by you I-can to-be-helped not because so I-am broken that either
hominem me esse oblitus sim aut fortunae succumbendum
a-man that-I to-be forgotten I-have or to-fortune to-be-yielded
putem, sed tamen hilaritas illa nostra et suavitas, quae
I-think but still cheerfulness that our and charm which
te praeter ceteros delectabat, erepta mihi omnis est;
you beyond the-others delighted snatched-away from-me all has-been
firmitatem tamen et constantiam, si modo fuit aliquando
firmness still and steadiness if only there-was ever
in nobis, eandem cognosces quam reliquisti.
in us the-same you-will-recognize as you-left

Quod scribis proelia te mea causa sustinere, non 2
As-to-what you-write battles that-you for-my sake to-sustain not
tam id laboro ut, si qui mihi obtrectent, a te
so-much that I-am-concerned that if any me disparage by you
refutentur, quam intellegi cupio, quod certe intellegitur,
they-be-refuted as to-be-understood I-desire which certainly is-understood
me a te amari. Quod ut facias, te etiam atque etiam
that-I by you to-be-loved Which that you-do you again and again
rogo, ignoscasque brevitati litterarum mearum; nam et
I-ask and-pardon the-brevity of-letters my for both
celeriter una futuros nos arbitror et nondum satis sum
quickly together going-to-be that-we I-think and not-yet enough I-am
confirmatus ad scribendum.
strengthened for writing

Cicero congratulates Baiae on growing healthy, unless it is flattering Dolabella and has forgotten itself while he is there. He sends the little speech for Deiotarus that Dolabella asked for, a slight case hardly worth writing up, but a small gift of coarse thread to an old host and friend, like the king's own presents. Dolabella should be wise and brave, so that his moderation shames the wrong done to him.

Cicero Dolabellae.

Cicero to-Dolabella

1 Gratulor Baiis nostris, si quidem, ut scribis, salubres
I-congratulate Baiae our if indeed as you-write healthy
repente factae sunt; nisi forte te amant et tibi
suddenly become they-have unless perhaps you they-love and to-you
adsentantur et tam diu, dum tu ades, sunt oblitae
they-flatter and so long as you are-present they-have forgotten
sui. Quod quidem si ita est, minime miror caelum
themselves Which indeed if so it-is least I-wonder the-sky
etiam et terras vim suam, si ita tibi conveniat, dimittere.
even and lands force its-own if so to-you it-suits to-give-up

2 Oratiunculam pro Deiotaro, quam requirebas, habebam
The-little-speech for Deiotarus which you-were-asking-for I-had
mecum, quod non putaram. Itaque eam tibi misi; quam
with-me which not I-had-thought And-so it to-you I-have-sent which
velim sic legas ut causam tenuem et inopem nec scriptione
I-would-wish thus you-read as a-case slight and poor nor of-writing
magno opere dignam; sed ego hospiti veteri et amico
in-great measure worthy but I to-a-host old and friend
munusculum mittere volui levidense crasso filo, cuius modi
a-little-gift to-send wished thin-woven with-coarse thread of-which kind

ipsius solent esse munera. Tu velim animo sapienti fortique
his-own are-wont to-be gifts You I-would-wish of-mind wise and-brave
sis, ut tua moderatio et gravitas aliorum infamet iniuriam.
you-be that your moderation and dignity of-others may-disgrace the-wrong

IX.13 · TWO MEN OF CALES

Cicero commends to Dolabella Gaius Subernius and Marcus Planius Heres, both of Cales and close to Lepta. Subernius went to Spain with Varro to avoid the war and was caught in the one that Scapula and Pompey stirred up there; Planius' case is the same. Lepta's fortunes seem at stake in theirs. Since Caesar has spared their lives and they have little left, Cicero begs Dolabella to win them leave to come home, to live with their families and die there.

Cicero Dolabellae s.
Cicero to-Dolabella greeting
C. Subernius Calenus et meus est familiaris et Leptae 1
Gaius Subernius of-Cales both my is friend and of-Lepta
nostri familiarissimi pernecessarius. Is cum vitandi belli
our most-intimate a-very-close-connection He when of-avoiding war
causa profectus esset in Hispaniam cum M. Varrone
for-the-sake set-out had into Spain with Marcus Varro
ante bellum, ut in ea provincia esset, in qua nemo
before the-war that in that province he-might-be in which no-one
nostrum post Afranium superatum bellum ullum fore
of-us after Afranius overcome war any going-to-be
putaret, incidit in ea ipsa mala, quae summo studio
would-think he-fell into those very evils which with-highest zeal
vitaverat; oppressus est enim bello repentino, quod
he-had-avoided overwhelmed he-was for by-a-war sudden which

bellum commotum a Scapula ita postea confirmatum est a
war stirred-up by Scapula so afterward strengthened was by
Pompeio, ut nulla ratione ab illa miseria se eripere posset.
Pompey that by-no means from that misery himself to-rescue he-could
2 Eadem causa fere est M. Plani Heredis, qui est item
The-same case nearly is of-Marcus Planius Heres who is likewise
Calenus, Leptae nostri familiarissimus. Hosce igitur ambos
of-Cales of-Lepta our most-intimate These therefore both
tibi sic commendo, ut maiore cura, studio, sollicitudine
to-you thus I-commend that with-greater care zeal anxiety
animi commendare non possim. Volo ipsorum causa,
of-mind to-commend not I-could I-wish(-it) for-their-own sake
meque in eo vehementer et amicitia movet et humanitas;
and-me in this strongly both friendship moves and humanity
Lepta vero cum ita laboret, ut eius fortunae videantur in
Lepta indeed since so he-is-troubled that his fortunes seem into
discrimen venire, non possum ego non aut proxime atque
jeopardy to-come not can I not either nearly as
ille aut etiam aeque laborare. Quapropter, etsi saepe
he or even equally to-be-troubled Wherefore although often
expertus sum quantum me amares, tamen sic velim
experienced I-have how-much me you-loved still thus I-would-wish
tibi persuadeas, id me in hac re maxime iudicaturum.
to-yourself you-persuade that that-I in this matter most going-to-judge
3 Peto igitur a te vel, si pateris, oro ut homines miseros
I-ask therefore of you or if you-allow I-beg that men wretched
et fortuna, quam vitare nemo potest, magis quam culpa
and by-fortune which to-avoid no-one can more than by-fault
calamitosos conserves incolumis velisque per te me
ruined you-preserve safe and-be-willing through yourself that-I
hoc muneris cum ipsis amicis hominibus, cum municipio
this of-favor both to-the-very friendly men and to-the-town

Caleno, quocum mihi magna necessitudo est, tum
of-Cales with-which to-me great connection is and-above-all
Leptae, quem omnibus antepono, dare.
to-Lepta whom to-all I-prefer to-give
Quod dicturus sum, puto equidem non valde ad rem 4
What going-to-say I-am I-think for-my-part not very-much to the-matter
pertinere, sed tamen nihil obest dicere: Res familiaris
to-pertain but still nothing it-hinders to-say The-estate family
alteri eorum valde exigua est, alteri vix equestris.
to-one of-them very small is to-the-other scarcely equestrian
Quapropter, quoniam iis Caesar vitam sua liberalitate
Wherefore since to-them Caesar life by-his generosity
concessit nec est quod iis praeterea magno opere
has-granted nor there-is anything-that from-them besides in-great measure
possit adimi, reditum, si me tantum amas quantum certe
can to-be-taken return if me as-much you-love as certainly
amas, hominibus confice; in quo nihil est praeter viam
you-love for-the-men accomplish in which nothing is except the-road
longam, quam idcirco non fugiunt, ut et vivant
long which for-this-reason not they-shun that both they-may-live
cum suis et moriantur domi. Quod ut enitare
with their-own and may-die at-home Which that you-exert-yourself
contendasque vel potius ut perficias (posse enim te
and-strive or rather that you-accomplish(-it) to-be-able for that-you
mihi persuasi), vehementer te etiam atque etiam rogo.
myself I-have-persuaded earnestly you again and again I-ask

Cicero is delighted that people credit him with a share in Dolabella's praise for his firm action as consul. He neither claims the counsel nor denies it, since even Agamemnon had his Nestor. Lucius Caesar, sick at Naples, congratulated him on his influence with Dolabella. Cicero has loved Brutus more since the Ides of March, and Dolabella now ardently; he needs no exhortation but congratulation, for his harsh punishment was popular with everyone, and he must now guard the republic and the men who began its liberty.

Cicero Dolabellae consuli suo s.

Cicero to-Dolabella consul his greeting

1 Etsi contentus eram, mi Dolabella, tua gloria satisque
Although content I-was my Dolabella with-your glory and-enough
ex ea magnam laetitiam voluptatemque capiebam, tamen
from it great joy and-pleasure I-was-taking still
non possum non confiteri cumulari me maximo
not I-can not to-confess to-be-heaped-up that-I with-the-greatest
gaudio, quod vulgo hominum opinio socium me adscribat
joy because commonly of-men the-opinion as-partner me enrolls
tuis laudibus. Neminem conveni (convenio autem cotidie
to-your praises No-one I-have-met I-meet however daily
plurimos; sunt enim permulti optimi viri, qui valetudinis
very-many there-are for very-many most-excellent men who of-health
causa in haec loca veniant, praeterea ex municipiis
for-the-sake into these places come besides from the-towns
frequentes necessarii mei), quin omnes, cum te summis
in-numbers connections my who-do-not all when you with-highest
laudibus ad caelum extulerunt, mihi continuo maximas
praises to heaven they-have-raised to-me immediately greatest
gratias agant; negant enim se dubitare quin tu meis
thanks give they-deny for that-they to-doubt but-that you my

praeceptis et consiliis obtemperans praestantissimum te
precepts and counsels obeying most-outstanding yourself
civem et singularem consulem praebeas.
citizen and singular consul show
Quibus ego quamquam verissime possum respondere te, 2
To-whom I although most-truly I-can to-reply that-you
quae facias, tuo iudicio et tua sponte facere nec
what-things you-do by-your judgment and of-your own-accord to-do nor
cuiusquam egere consilio, tamen neque plane adsentior,
of-anyone to-need counsel still neither fully I-assent
ne imminuam tuam laudem, si omnis a meis consiliis
lest I-lessen your praise if all from my counsels
profecta videatur, neque valde nego; sum enim avidior
proceeded it-should-seem nor very-strongly I-deny I-am for greedier
etiam quam satis est gloriae; et tamen non alienum est
even than enough is of-glory and still not foreign is
dignitate tua, quod ipsi Agamemnoni, regum regi, fuit
to-the-dignity your what to-the-very Agamemnon of-kings king was
honestum, habere aliquem in consiliis capiendis Nestorem,
honorable to-have some in counsels to-be-taken a-Nestor
mihi vero gloriosum te iuvenem consulem florere
to-me indeed glorious that-you young consul to-flourish
laudibus quasi alumnum disciplinae meae.
with-praises as-it-were pupil of-the-teaching my
L. quidem Caesar, cum ad eum aegrotum Neapolim 3
Lucius indeed Caesar when to him sick to-Naples
venissem, quamquam erat oppressus totius corporis
I-had-come although he-was overwhelmed of-the-whole body
doloribus, tamen, ante quam me plane salutavit, ‘O mi Cicero,’
by-pains still before than me properly he-greeted O my Cicero
inquit, ‘gratulor tibi, cum tantum vales apud Dolabellam,
he-said I-congratulate you since so-much you-avail with Dolabella

quantum si ego apud sororis filium valerem, iam salvi
as-much if I with of-my-sister the-son availed now safe
esse possemus; Dolabellae vero tuo et gratulor et gratias
to-be we-could to-Dolabella indeed your both I-congratulate and thanks
ago, quem quidem post te consulem solum possumus vere
I-give whom indeed after you consul alone we-can truly
consulem dicere.' Deinde multa de facto ac de re gesta
consul to-call Then much about the-deed and about the-thing done
tua: nihil magnificentius, nihil praeclarius actum umquam,
by-you nothing more-magnificent nothing more-splendid done ever
nihil rei p. salutarius. Atque haec una vox omnium est.
nothing for-the-thing public more-salutary And this one voice of-all is
4 A te autem peto ut me hanc quasi falsam hereditatem
From you however I-ask that me this as-it-were false inheritance
alienae gloriae sinas cernere meque aliqua ex parte in
of-another's glory you-allow to-enter-upon and-me in-some from part into
societatem tuarum laudum venire patiare. Quamquam, mi
partnership of-your praises to-come you-suffer Although my
Dolabella (haec enim iocatus sum) libentius omnis meas, si
Dolabella this for jested I-have more-gladly all my if
modo sunt aliquae meae laudes, ad te transfuderim quam
only there-are any my praises to you I-would-pour-over than
aliquam partem exhauserim ex tuis. Nam cum te semper
any part I-would-draw-off from yours For while you always
tantum dilexerim, quantum tu intellegere potuisti, tum
as-much I-have-esteemed as you to-understand have-been-able then
his tuis factis sic incensus sum, ut nihil umquam
by-these your deeds so inflamed I-have-been that nothing ever
in amore fuerit ardentius. Nihil est enim, mihi crede,
in love has-been more-ardent Nothing is for me believe
virtute formosius, nihil pulchrius, nihil amabilius.
than-virtue more-beautiful nothing fairer nothing more-lovable

Semper amavi, ut scis, M. Brutum propter 5
Always I-have-loved as you-know Marcus Brutus on-account-of
eius summum ingenium, suavissimos mores, singularem
his highest talent most-delightful ways singular
probitatem atque constantiam; tamen Idibus Martiis tantum
uprightness and constancy still on-the-Ides of-March so-much
accessit ad amorem ut mirarer locum fuisse augendi
was-added to the-love that I-wondered room to-have-been for-increasing
in eo, quod mihi iam pridem cumulatum etiam videbatur.
in that which to-me already long-ago heaped-full even seemed
Quis erat qui putaret ad eum amorem, quem erga te
Who was-there who would-think to that love which toward you
habebam, posse aliquid accedere? Tantum accessit ut mihi
I-had to-be-able anything to-be-added So-much was-added that to-me
nunc denique amare videar, antea dilexisse.
now at-last to-love I-seem before to-have-esteemed
Qua re quid est quod ego te horter ut dignitati 6
By-which thing what is-there that I you should-urge that to-dignity
et gloriae servias? proponam tibi claros viros, quod facere
and glory you-serve I-should-set-before you famous men which to-do
solent qui hortantur? Neminem habeo clariorem quam
are-wont those-who exhort No-one I-have more-famous than
te ipsum; te imitere oportet, tecum ipse certes;
you yourself you you-should-imitate it-behooves with-you yourself you-contend
ne licet quidem tibi iam tantis rebus gestis non
not it-is-permitted even to-you now with-such-great things done not
tui similem esse.
of-yourself like to-be
Quod cum ita sit, hortatio non est necessaria, gratulatione 7
Which since so it-is exhortation not is necessary congratulation
magis utendum est; contigit enim tibi quod haud scio
rather to-be-used is has-befallen for to-you what not I-know

an nemini, ut summa severitas animadversionis non
whether to-no-one that the-utmost severity of-punishment not
modo non invidiosa sed etiam popularis esset et cum
only not odious but even popular was and both
bonis omnibus tum infimo cuique gratissima. Hoc si
to-the-good all and to-the-lowest each most-pleasing This if
tibi fortuna quadam contigisset, gratularer felicitati
to-you by-fortune some had-befallen I-would-congratulate the-luck
tuae; sed contigit magnitudine cum animi tum etiam
your but it-has-befallen by-the-greatness both of-mind and also
ingeni atque consili. Legi enim contionem tuam; nihil
of-talent and of-counsel I-have-read for speech your nothing
illa sapientius; ita pedetemptim et gradatim tum accessus
than-it wiser so step-by-step and by-degrees both approach
a te ad causam facti, tum recessus, ut res ipsa
by you to the-cause of-the-deed and withdrawal that the-thing itself
maturitatem tibi animadvertendi omnium concessu daret.
ripeness to-you of-punishing of-all by-consent gave
8 Liberasti igitur et urbem periculo et civitatem metu
You-have-freed therefore both the-city from-danger and the-state from-fear
neque solum ad tempus maximam utilitatem attulisti
nor only for the-moment greatest benefit you-have-brought
sed etiam ad exemplum. Quo facto intellegere debes in te
but also for example By-which deed to-understand you-ought in you
positam esse rem p. tibique non modo tuendos, sed
placed to-be the-thing public and-by-you not only to-be-protected but
etiam ornandos esse illos viros, a quibus initium libertatis
also to-be-honored to-be those men from whom the-beginning of-liberty
profectum est. Sed his de rebus coram plura propediem,
proceeded has But these about things face-to-face more very-soon

ut spero. Tu quoniam rem p. nosque conservas, fac
as I-hope You since the-thing public and-us you-preserve make
ut diligentissime te ipsum, mi Dolabella, custodias.
that most-carefully you yourself my Dolabella you-guard

IX.15 · THE OLD ROMAN WIT

Cicero answers two of Paetus' letters. He is glad that Paetus welcomed his concern for Paetus' health; no one is dearer to him, for Paetus keeps the old Roman wit, saltier than Attic, now that foreign speech has flooded the city and even trousered Gauls are in it. Paetus did not dissuade him from buying at Naples, only counseled moderation, thinking he may not leave politics; but Cicero no longer holds the helm, and decrees of the senate are written in his name without him, at Rome or away. He will stay with Paetus if he finds no house.

Cicero Paeto s.
Cicero to-Paetus greeting
Duabus tuis epistulis respondebo, uni, quam quadriduo 1
To-two your letters I-will-reply to-one which four-days
ante acceperam a Zetho, alteri, quam attulerat Phileros
before I-had-received from Zethus to-the-other which had-brought Phileros
tabellarius. Ex prioribus tuis litteris intellexi pergratam tibi
the-courier From the-earlier your letter I-understood very-welcome to-you
esse curam meam valetudinis tuae, quam tibi perspectam esse
to-be the-care my for-health your which to-you clear to-be
gaudeo; sed, mihi crede, non perinde, ut est reapse, ex litteris
I-rejoice but me believe not as-fully as it-is in-reality from the-letter
perspicere potuisti. Nam cum a satis multis (non enim
to-see you-have-been-able For though by fairly many not for
possum aliter dicere) et coli me videam et diligi,
I-can otherwise to-say and to-be-courted that-I I-see and to-be-loved

nemo est illorum omnium mihi te iucundior. Nam quod
no-one is of-those all to-me than-you more-delightful For that
me amas, quod id et iam pridem et constanter facis, est id
me you-love that it both already long-ago and constantly you-do is it
quidem magnum atque haud scio an maximum, sed tibi
indeed great and not I-know whether the-greatest but to-you
commune cum multis; quod tu ipse tam amandus es tamque
common with many that you yourself so lovable are and-so
dulcis tamque in omni genere iucundus, id est proprie tuum.
sweet and-so in every kind delightful that is properly yours
2 Accedunt non Attici, sed salsiores quam illi Atticorum
There-are-added not Attic but saltier than those of-the-Athenians
Romani veteres atque urbani sales. Ego autem (existimes
Roman old and urban salt-wits I however you-may-think
licet quidlibet) mirifice capior facetiis maxime
it-is-permitted what-you-please wonderfully I-am-taken by-wit most
nostratibus, praesertim cum eas videam primum oblitas
our-native especially since them I-see first smeared
Latio tum, cum in urbem nostram est infusa
with-Latium then when into city our has-been poured
peregrinitas, nunc vero etiam bracatis et Transalpinis
foreignness now indeed even by-the-trousered and Transalpine
nationibus, ut nullum veteris leporis vestigium appareat.
nations so-that no of-old charm trace appears
Itaque te cum video, omnis mihi Granios, omnis Lucilios,
And-so you when I-see all to-me the-Granii all the-Lucilii
vere ut dicam, Crassos quoque et Laelios videre videor.
truly that I-may-say the-Crassi also and the-Laelii to-see I-seem
Moriar, si praeter te quemquam reliquum habeo, in
May-I-die if except you anyone left I-have in
quo possim imaginem antiquae et vernaculae festivitatis
whom I-can the-image of-ancient and native gaiety

agnoscere. Ad hos lepores cum amor erga me tantus
to-recognize To these charms when love toward me so-great
accedat, miraris me tanta perturbatione valetudinis
is-added do-you-wonder that-I by-so-great disturbance of-health
tuae tam graviter exanimatum fuisse?
your so heavily dismayed to-have-been
Quod autem altera epistula purgas te non 3
As-to-what however in-the-other letter you-clear yourself not
dissuasorem mihi emptionis Neapolitanae fuisse sed
dissuader to-me of-the-purchase Neapolitan to-have-been but
auctorem moderationis, urbane, neque ego aliter accepi;
advocate of-moderation courteously nor I otherwise took(-it)
intellexi tamen idem, quod his intellego litteris, non
I-understood still the-same which from-these I-understand letters not
existimasse te mihi licere, id quod ego arbitrabar,
to-have-thought that-you for-me to-be-allowed that which I thought
res has non omnino quidem sed magnam partem
affairs these not altogether indeed but a-great part
relinquere. Catulum mihi narras et illa tempora. Quid
to-leave Catulus to-me you-tell-of and those times What
simile? ne mi quidem ipsi tunc placebat diutius abesse
alike not to-me even myself then it-pleased longer to-be-away
ab rei p. custodia; sedebamus enim in puppi et
from of-the-thing public guardianship we-were-sitting for in the-stern and
clavum tenebamus; nunc autem vix est in sentina locus.
the-helm we-were-holding now however scarcely there-is in the-bilge room
An minus multa s. c. futura putas, si ego 4
Or less many of-the-senate decrees going-to-be do-you-think if I
sim Neapoli? Romae cum sum et urgeo forum, s.
am at-Naples At-Rome when I-am and press the-forum of-the-senate
c. scribuntur apud amatorem tuum, familiarem meum;
decrees are-written at the-lover your friend my

et quidem, cum in mentem venit, ponor ad scribendum
and indeed when into mind it-comes I-am-put to the-writing
et ante audio s. c. in Armeniam et Syriam
and before I-hear of-the-senate decree into Armenia and Syria
esse perlatum, quod in meam sententiam factum
to-have-been carried which on my motion made
esse dicatur, quam omnino mentionem ullam de ea
to-have-been is-said than at-all mention any about that
re esse factam. Atque hoc nolim me iocari
matter to-have-been made And this I-would-not-wish that-I to-be-joking
putes; nam mihi scito iam a regibus ultimis
you-think for to-me know already from kings at-the-ends-of-the-earth
adlatas esse litteras, quibus mihi gratias agant, quod
brought to-have-been letters in-which to-me thanks they-give because
se mea sententia reges appellaverim, quos ego non modo
them by-my motion kings I-have-named whom I not only
reges appellatos, sed omnino natos nesciebam.
kings named but at-all born I-did-not-know
5 Quid ergo est? tamen quam diu hic erit noster hic
What therefore is-it still how long here will-be our this
praefectus moribus, parebo auctoritati tuae; quom vero
prefect of-morals I-will-obey the-authority your when indeed
aberit, ad fungos me tuos conferam. Domum si
he-will-be-away to mushrooms myself your I-will-betake A-house if
habebo, in denos dies singulos sumptuariae legis dies
I-shall-have into ten-each days single of-the-sumptuary law the-days
conferam; sin autem minus invenero quod placeat,
I-will-gather but-if however not I-shall-have-found what may-please
decrevi habitare apud te; scio enim me nihil tibi
I-have-decided to-live with you I-know for that-I nothing to-you
gratius facere posse. Domum Sullanam desperabam iam,
more-pleasing to-do to-be-able The-house of-Sulla I-was-despairing-of now

ut tibi proxime scripsi, sed tamen non abieci. Tu
as to-you lately I-wrote but still not I-have-thrown(-it)-away You
velim, ut scribis, cum fabris eam perspicias; si enim nihil
I-would-wish as you-write with builders it inspect if for nothing
est in parietibus aut in tecto viti, cetera mihi probabuntur.
is in the-walls or in the-roof of-fault the-rest to-me will-be-approved

IX.16 · LIVING WITH THE VICTORS

Paetus fears that Silius' report has alarmed Cicero. Cicero has done all he can to win the goodwill of Caesar's friends, who court him, and he believes their friendship true because neither side has cause to feign. He fears nothing from Caesar except the uncertainty that follows the end of law; he says nothing to offend, though he cannot shed his name for wit, and Caesar's keen ear knows his sayings from false ones. He consoles himself with a clear conscience and turns to Paetus' jokes and dinners: Hirtius and Dolabella are his pupils in speaking and his masters in dining.

Cicero Paeto s.
Cicero to-Paetus greeting
Delectarunt me tuae litterae, in quibus primum amavi 1
Delighted me your letter in which first I-loved
amorem tuum, qui te ad scribendum incitavit verentem ne
the-love your which you to writing spurred fearing lest
Silius suo nuntio aliquid mihi sollicitudinis attulisset; de
Silius by-his report some to-me of-anxiety had-brought about
quo et tu mihi antea scripseras bis quidem eodem exemplo,
which both you to-me before had-written twice indeed in-the-same copy
facile ut intellegerem te esse commotum, et ego tibi
easily that I-understood that-you to-be disturbed and I to-you

accurate rescripseram, ut quo modo in tali re atque
carefully had-written-back that in-what way in such a-matter and
tempore aut liberarem te ista cura aut certe levarem.
time either I-might-free you from-that care or certainly relieve
2 Sed quoniam proximis quoque litteris ostendis quantae
But since in-the-latest also letter you-show of-how-great
tibi curae sit ea res, sic, mi Paete, habeto, quicquid
to-you concern is that matter thus my Paetus hold(-it) whatever
arte fieri potuerit (non enim iam satis est consilio
by-art to-be-done could not for now enough is by-counsel
pugnare; artificium quoddam excogitandum est), sed tamen,
to-fight a-device certain to-be-thought-out is but still
quicquid elaborari aut effici potuerit ad istorum
whatever to-be-worked-out or to-be-effected could to their
benevolentiam conciliandam et conligendam, summo studio
goodwill to-be-won and to-be-gathered with-highest zeal
me consecutum esse, nec frustra, ut arbitror; sic enim
that-I achieved to-have nor in-vain as I-think so for
color, sic observor ab omnibus iis, qui a Caesare
I-am-courted so I-am-attended by all those who by Caesar
diliguntur, ut ab iis me amari putem; nam etsi non
are-esteemed that by them that-I to-be-loved I-may-think for although not
facile diiudicatur amor verus et fictus, nisi aliquod incidit
easily is-discerned love true and feigned unless some occurs
eius modi tempus, ut quasi aurum igni sic benevolentia
of-that kind time that as gold by-fire so goodwill
fidelis periculo aliquo perspici possit; cetera sunt signa
faithful by-danger some to-be-seen can the-other are signs
communia, sed ego uno utor argumento quam ob rem
common but I one use argument which on-account-of thing

me ex animo vereque arbitrer diligi, quia et nostra
that-I from the-heart and-truly I-think to-be-esteemed because both our
fortuna ea est et illorum ut simulandi causa non sit.
fortune such is and theirs that of-pretending reason not there-is
De illo autem, quem penes est omnis potestas, nihil 3
About him however whom in-the-hands-of is all power nothing
video quod timeam, nisi quod omnia sunt incerta, cum
I-see which I-should-fear except that all-things are uncertain when
a iure discessum est, nec praestari quicquam potest
from law departed it-has-been nor to-be-guaranteed anything can
quale futurum sit, quod positum est in alterius voluntate,
of-what-sort going-to-be it-is which placed is in another's will
ne dicam libidine. Sed tamen eius ipsius nulla re a me
not to-say whim But still his own by-no thing by me
offensus est animus; est enim adhibita in ea re ipsa
offended has-been mind has-been for applied in that matter very
summa a nobis moderatio. Ut enim olim arbitrabar esse meum
the-utmost by us moderation As for once I-thought to-be mine
libere loqui, cuius opera esset in civitate libertas, sic ea
freely to-speak whose by-efforts there-was in the-state liberty so it
nunc amissa nihil loqui quod offendat aut illius aut eorum,
now with-lost nothing to-speak which may-offend either his or of-those
qui ab illo diliguntur, voluntatem. Effugere autem si velim non
who by him are-esteemed will To-escape however if I-wish not
nullorum acute aut facete dictorum opinionem, fama ingeni
of-none shrewdly or wittily said-things the-reputation the-fame of-talent
mihi sit abicienda; quod si possem, non recusarem.
by-me would-be to-be-thrown-away which if I-could not I-would-refuse
Sed tamen ipse Caesar habet peracre iudicium, et, ut 4
But still himself Caesar has very-keen judgment and as
Servius, frater tuus, quem litteratissimum fuisse iudico,
Servius brother your whom most-literate to-have-been I-judge

facile diceret: 'Hic versus Plauti non est, hic est,' quod tritas
easily would-say This verse of-Plautus not is this is because worn
auris haberet notandis generibus poetarum et consuetudine
ears he-had by-noting the-kinds of-poets and by-habit
legendi, sic audio Caesarem, cum volumina iam confecerit
of-reading so I-hear that-Caesar since volumes already he-has-completed
ἀποφθεγμάτων, si quod adferatur ad eum pro meo quod
of-apophthegms if any is-brought to him as mine which
meum non sit reicere solere; quod eo nunc magis
mine not is to-reject to-be-accustomed which for-this now more
facit, quia vivunt mecum fere cotidie illius familiares.
he-does because live with-me nearly daily his friends
Incidunt autem in sermone vario multa, quae fortasse
Occur however in conversation varied many-things which perhaps
illis, cum dixi, nec inlitterata nec insulsa esse videantur;
to-them when I-said neither unlettered nor witless to-be may-seem
haec ad illum cum reliquis actis perferuntur; ita enim
these to him with the-other news are-carried so for
ipse mandavit. Sic fit ut, si quid praeterea de me
he-himself has-ordered Thus it-happens that if anything besides about me
audiat, non audiendum putet. Quam ob rem Oenomao
he-hears not to-be-heeded he-thinks Which on-account-of thing Oenomaus
tuo nihil utor; etsi posuisti loco versus Accianos.
your not-at-all I-use although you-placed aptly the-verses of-Accius
5 Sed quae est 'invidia,' aut quid mihi nunc invideri potest?
But what is envy or what to-me now to-be-envied can
Verum fac esse omnia; sic video philosophis placuisse
But suppose to-be all-things so I-see to-the-philosophers to-have-seemed-good
iis, qui mihi soli videntur vim virtutis tenere, nihil
those who to-me alone seem the-force of-virtue to-hold nothing
esse sapientis praestare nisi culpam. Qua mihi videor
to-be of-the-wise-man to-answer-for except fault From-which to-me I-seem

dupliciter carere, et quod ea senserim quae rectissima
doubly to-be-free both because those-things I-felt which most-right
fuerunt, et quod, cum viderem praesidi non satis esse
were and because when I-saw of-protection not enough to-be
ad ea obtinenda, viribus certandum cum valentioribus
for them to-be-maintained with-strength to-be-contended with the-stronger
non putarim. Ergo in officio boni civis certe non sum
not I-thought Therefore in the-duty of-a-good citizen certainly not I-am
reprehendendus. Reliquum est ne quid stulte, ne quid
to-be-blamed Remaining it-is lest anything foolishly lest anything
temere dicam aut faciam contra potentis. Id quoque puto esse
rashly I-say or do against the-powerful That also I-think to-be
sapientis. Cetera vero, quid quisque me dixisse dicat, aut
of-the-wise-man The-rest indeed what each that-I to-have-said says or
quo modo ille accipiat, aut qua fide mecum vivant ii
in-what way he takes(-it) or with-what faith with-me live those
qui me assidue colunt et observant, praestare non possum.
who me constantly court and attend to-answer-for not I-can
Ita fit ut et consiliorum superiorum conscientia 6
So it-happens that both of-counsels earlier by-the-consciousness
et praesentis temporis moderatione me consoler et illam
and of-the-present time by-the-moderation myself I-console and that
Acci similitudinem non iam ad 'invidiam,' sed ad fortunam
of-Accius comparison not now to envy but to fortune
transferam, quam existimo levem et imbecillam ab animo
I-transfer which I-think light and weak by a-mind
firmo et gravi 'tamquam fluctum a saxo frangi' oportere.
firm and steady as a-wave by a-rock to-be-broken to-be-proper
Etenim cum plena sint monumenta Graecorum quem ad
For-indeed since full are the-records of-the-Greeks in-what to
modum sapientissimi viri regna tulerint vel Athenis vel
manner the-wisest men kingships endured either at-Athens or

Syracusis, cum servientibus suis civitatibus fuerint ipsi
at-Syracuse when with-enslaved their states they-were themselves
quodam modo liberi, ego me non putem tueri meum
in-a-certain way free I myself not should-think to-protect my
statum sic posse ut neque offendam animum cuiusquam
position so to-be-able that neither I-offend the-mind of-anyone
nec frangam dignitatem meam?
nor break dignity my

7 Nunc venio ad iocationes tuas, quoniam tu secundum
Now I-come to jokes your since you after
Oenomaum Acci non, ut olim solebat, Atellanam sed, ut
the-Oenomaus of-Accius not as once was-the-custom an-Atellan but as
nunc fit, mimum introduxisti. Quem tu mihi popillium,
now is-done a-mime you-have-brought-on What you to-me pilot-fish
quem denarium narras, quam tyrotarichi patinam?
what denarius you-tell-of what of-cheese-and-salt-fish dish
Facilitate mea ista ferebantur antea; nunc mutata res
By-the-easiness my those-things were-borne formerly now changed the-matter
est. Hirtium ego et Dolabellam dicendi discipulos habeo,
is Hirtius I and Dolabella of-speaking pupils I-have
cenandi magistros; puto enim te audisse, si forte ad
of-dining masters I-think for that-you to-have-heard if perhaps to
vos omnia perferuntur, illos apud me declamitare,
you all-things are-carried that-they at my-house to-practice-declaiming
me apud illos cenitare. Tu autem quod mihi bonam
that-I at their-house to-dine-regularly You however as-for-what to-me good
copiam eiures nihil est; tum enim, cum rem habebas,
property you-swear-off nothing it-is then for when means you-had
quaesticulis te faciebat attentiorem, nunc, cum tam aequo
by-small-gains you it-made more-careful now when so with-even
animo bona perdas, non eo sis consilio, ut, cum me
mind goods you-lose not with-that you-should-be intention that when me

hospitio recipias, aestimationem te aliquam putes accipere;
as-guest you-receive a-valuation that-you some you-think to-receive
etiam haec levior est plaga ab amico quam a debitore.
even this lighter is blow from a-friend than from a-debtor
Nec tamen eas cenas quaero, ut magnae reliquiae fiant; 8
Nor still those dinners I-seek that great leftovers may-be-made
quod erit, magnificum sit et lautum. Memini te
what will-be splendid let-it-be and elegant I-remember that-you
mihi Phameae cenam narrare. Temperius fiat, cetera
to-me of-Phamea the-dinner to-describe Earlier let-it-be the-rest
eodem modo. Quod si perseveras me ad matris tuae
in-the-same way But if you-persist me to of-mother your
cenam revocare, feram id quoque; volo enim videre
the-dinner to-call-back I-will-bear that too I-wish for to-see
animum qui mihi audeat ista, quae scribis, apponere
the-spirit which to-me may-dare those-things which you-write to-serve
aut etiam polypum miniati Iovis similem. Mihi crede,
or even a-polyp of-vermilioned Jupiter like Me believe
non audebis; ante meum adventum fama ad te de mea
not you-will-dare before my arrival report to you about my
nova lautitia veniet; eam tu extimesces. Neque est quod
new elegance will-come it you will-be-terrified Nor there-is reason
in promulside spei ponas aliquid; quam totam sustuli;
in the-first-course of-hope you-place any which whole I-have-abolished
solebam enim antea debilitari oleis et lucanicis tuis.
I-used for before to-be-weakened by-olives and Lucanian-sausages your
Sed quid haec loquimur? liceat modo isto venire. 9
But what these-things do-we-talk let-it-be-allowed only there to-come
Tu vero (volo enim abstergere animi tui metum) ad
You indeed I-wish for to-wipe-away of-mind your the-fear to
tyrotarichum antiquum redi. Ego tibi unum sumptum
cheese-and-salt-fish old return I to-you one expense

adferam, quod balneum calfacias oportebit; cetera more
will-bring that the-bath you-heat it-will-be-necessary the-rest in-manner
nostro. Superiora illa lusimus.
our The-earlier things we-said-in-jest
10 De villa Seliciana et curasti diligenter et scripsisti
About the-villa of-Selicius both you-attended(-to-it) diligently and you-wrote
facetissime; itaque puto me praetermissurum; salis enim
most-wittily and-so I-think that-I going-to-pass(-it)-by of-salt for
satis est, sannionum parum.
enough there-is of-clowns too-little

IX.17 · WHAT WILL BECOME OF US

Paetus asks Cicero what will become of the towns and lands being surveyed, as if Cicero knew more than Balbus. Cicero does not even ask: he has lived on borrowed time for nearly four years, and whatever the men with arms want will be done. The land of Veii and Capena is being measured near his Tusculan, but he fears nothing and cannot help loving Caesar, by whose kindness he lives; Caesar himself is bound to many. Not even the chief knows what the times will demand; Paetus should hope for the best and bear what comes.

Cicero Paeto.
Cicero to-Paetus
1 Non tu homo ridiculus es qui, cum Balbus noster apud
Not you a-man absurd are who when Balbus our with
te fuerit, ex me quaeras quid de istis municipiis et
you has-been of me you-ask what about those towns and
agris futurum putem? quasi aut ego quicquam sciam quod
lands going-to-be I-think as-if either I anything know which
iste nesciat, aut, si quid aliquando scio, non ex isto
he does-not-know or if anything ever I-know not from him

soleam scire. Immo vero, si me amas, tu fac ut sciam,
I-am-accustomed to-know Nay indeed if me you-love you make that I-know
quid de nobis futurum sit; habuisti enim in tua potestate,
what about us going-to-be is you-had(-him) for in your power
ex quo vel ex sobrio vel certe ex ebrio scire posses.
from whom either from sober or certainly from drunk to-know you-could
Sed ego ista, mi Paete, non quaero, primum quia de
But I those-things my Paetus not ask first because on
lucro prope iam quadriennium vivimus, si aut hoc lucrum
profit nearly now four-years we-live if either this profit
est aut haec vita, superstitem rei p. vivere; deinde quod
is or this life surviving the-thing public to-live then because
scire quoque mihi videor, quid futurum sit. Fiet
to-know also to-me I-seem what going-to-be is There-will-be-done
enim, quodcumque volent, qui valebunt; valebunt autem
for whatever will-wish those-who will-prevail will-prevail however
semper arma. Satis igitur nobis esse debet, quicquid
always arms Enough therefore for-us to-be ought whatever
conceditur. Hoc si qui pati non potuit, mori debuit.
is-granted This if anyone to-suffer not could to-die he-ought
Veientem quidem agrum et Capenatem metiuntur; hoc non 2
Veientine indeed land and Capenate they-are-measuring this not
longe abest a Tusculano; nihil tamen timeo. Fruor dum
far is-distant from my-Tusculan nothing still I-fear I-enjoy(-it) while
licet, opto ut semper liceat; si id minus contigerit,
it-is-allowed I-wish that always it-be-allowed if that less will-have-befallen
tamen, quoniam ego vir fortis idemque philosophus vivere
still since I a-man brave and-likewise a-philosopher to-live
pulcherrimum duxi, non possum eum non diligere, cuius
most-beautiful I-held not I-can him not to-esteem whose
beneficio id consecutus sum. Qui si cupiat esse rem p.,
by-kindness that attained I-have Who if should-desire to-be the-thing public

qualem fortasse et ille vult et omnes optare debemus, quid
such-as perhaps both he wishes and all to-wish we-ought what
faciat tamen non habet; ita se cum multis conligavit.
he-may-do still not he-has so himself with many he-has-bound
3 Sed longius progredior; scribo enim ad te. Hoc tamen
But too-far I-go-on I-am-writing for to you This still
scito, non modo me qui consiliis non intersum sed ne
know not only that-I who the-councils not attend but not
ipsum quidem principem scire quid futurum sit; nos enim
the-very even chief to-know what going-to-be is we for
illi servimus, ipse temporibus. Ita nec ille, quid tempora
him serve he-himself the-times So neither he what the-times
postulatura sint, nec nos, quid ille cogitet, scire possumus.
going-to-demand are nor we what he intends to-know can
Haec tibi antea non rescripsi, non quo cessator esse
These-things to-you before not I-wrote-back not because a-sluggard to-be
solerem, praesertim in litteris, sed, cum explorati nihil
I-was-wont especially in letters but since of-certain nothing
haberem, nec tibi sollicitudinem ex dubitatione mea nec
I-had neither to-you anxiety from doubt my nor
spem ex adfirmatione adferre volui. Illud tamen adscribam,
hope from assurance to-bring I-wished That still I-will-add
quod est verissimum, me his temporibus adhuc de isto
which is most-true that-I in-these times as-yet about that
periculo nihil audisse. Tu tamen pro tua sapientia debebis
danger nothing to-have-heard You still by your wisdom will-be-obliged
optare optima, cogitare difficillima, ferre quaecumque erunt.
to-wish-for the-best to-think-of the-hardest to-bear whatever will-be

Like Dionysius, who opened a school at Corinth when driven from Syracuse, Cicero, his courts abolished and his forum lost, has started a school. It protects him in these times, since he sees no better plan, unless dying was better. In a bed, he admits, but that did not happen; he was not in the battle line, while Pompey, Lentulus, Scipio, and Afranius perished foully and Cato splendidly. It restores his health and his speech, and he has finished off more peacocks than Paetus pigeons. Paetus should come and learn; if he cannot sell his estates, he must move back to Rome, since indigestion here is better than hunger there.

Cicero s. d. Paeto.

Cicero greeting says to-Paetus

Cum essem otiosus in Tusculano, propterea quod discipulos 1
When I-was at-leisure at my-Tusculan for-this-reason because my-pupils
obviam miseram ut eadem me quam maxime conciliarent
to-meet(-him) I-had-sent that likewise me as most they-might-commend
familiari suo, accepi tuas litteras plenissimas suavitatis; ex
to-friend their I-received your letter fullest of-charm from
quibus intellexi probari tibi meum consilium, quod, ut
which I-understood to-be-approved by-you my plan that as
Dionysius tyrannus, cum Syracusis pulsus esset, Corinthi
Dionysius the-tyrant when from-Syracuse driven he-had-been at-Corinth
dicitur ludum aperuisse, sic ego sublatis iudiciis, amisso
is-said a-school to-have-opened so I with-abolished courts with-lost
regno forensi ludum quasi habere coeperim.
kingdom of-the-forum a-school as-it-were to-hold I-have-begun
Quid quaeris? me quoque delectat consilium; multa enim 2
What do-you-ask me also delights the-plan many-things for
consequor. Primum, id quod maxime nunc opus est, munio
I-gain First that which most now need is I-fortify
me ad haec tempora. Id cuius modi sit nescio; tantum
myself against these times That of-what kind it-is I-know-not only

video, nullius adhuc consilium me huic anteponere; nisi
I-see of-no-one yet plan that-I to-this to-prefer unless
forte mori melius fuit. In lectulo, fateor, sed non accidit;
perhaps to-die better was In a-bed I-confess but not it-happened
in acie non fui; ceteri quidem, Pompeius, Lentulus
in the-battle-line not I-was the-others indeed Pompey Lentulus
tuus, Scipio, Afranius foede perierunt. At Cato praeclare.
your Scipio Afranius foully perished But Cato splendidly
Iam istuc quidem, cum volemus, licebit; demus modo
Now that indeed when we-shall-wish will-be-allowed let-us-give only
operam ne tam necesse nobis sit, quam illi fuit, id
effort lest so necessary to-us be as to-him it-was that
quod agimus. Ergo hoc primum.
which we-are-doing Therefore this first

3 Sequitur illud: Ipse melior fio primum valetudine, quam
Follows that Myself better I-become first in-health which
intermissis exercitationibus amiseram; deinde ipsa illa,
with-interrupted exercises I-had-lost then itself that
si qua fuit in me, facultas orationis, nisi me ad has
if any was in me faculty of-speech unless myself to these
exercitationes rettulissem, exaruisset. Extremum illud
exercises I-had-brought-back would-have-dried-up Last that
est, quod tu nescio an primum putes: pluris iam
is which you I-know-not whether first may-think more now
pavones confeci quam tu pullos columbinos. Tu istic
peacocks I-have-finished-off than you young pigeons You there
te Hateriano iure delectas, ego me hic Hirtiano.
yourself with-the-Haterian law delight I myself here with-the-Hirtian
Veni igitur, si vir es, et disce a me προλεγομένας,
Come therefore if a-man you-are and learn from me the-preliminaries
quas quaeris; etsi sus Minervam, sed quo modo video.
which you-seek although a-sow Minerva but in-what way I-see

Si aestimationes tuas vendere non potes neque ollam 4
If valued-properties your to-sell not you-can nor a-pot
denariorum implere, Romam tibi remigrandum est; satius
of-denarii to-fill to-Rome by-you to-be-moved-back is better
est hic cruditate quam istic fame. Video te bona
it-is here by-indigestion than there by-hunger I-see that-you goods
perdidisse; spero idem istuc familiaris tuos. Actum igitur
to-have-lost I-hope the-same that friends your Done therefore
de te est, nisi provides. Potes mulo isto, quem tibi
with you it-is unless you-look-ahead You-can on-mule that which to-you
reliquum dicis esse, quoniam cantherium comedisti, Romam
remaining you-say to-be since the-gelding you-have-eaten to-Rome
pervehi. Sella tibi erit in ludo tamquam hypodidascalo
to-be-carried A-chair for-you will-be in the-school as for-an-under-teacher
proxima; eam pulvinus sequetur.
next it a-cushion will-follow

IX.19 · BALBUS AT DINNER

Paetus will not give up his mischief, hinting that Balbus was content with a slender spread, as if a consular should be more frugal still. Cicero fished out everything from Balbus, who came straight from the gate to his house, and asked first after Paetus: Balbus swore he had never dined more happily. If Paetus won that with talk, Cicero will bring ears as fine; if with the food, he should not rate stammerers above the eloquent. Cicero will come as soon as he can free himself.

Cicero s. d. Paeto.
Cicero greeting says to-Paetus
Tamen a malitia non discedis; tenuiculo apparatu 1
Still from mischief not you-depart with-a-slender spread
significas Balbum fuisse contentum. Hoc videris dicere,
you-indicate that-Balbus to-have-been content This you-seem to-say

cum reges tam sint continentes, multo magis consularis
since kings so are abstemious much more consulars
esse oportere. Nescis me ab illo omnia expiscatum;
to-be to-be-proper You-do-not-know that-I from him all-things fished-out
recta enim a porta domum meam venisse neque hoc
straight for from the-gate to-house my to-have-come nor this
admiror, quod non suam potius, sed illud, quod non
I-wonder-at that not to-his-own rather but that that not
ad suam. Ego autem tribus primis verbis: 'Quid noster
to his-own I however with-three first words What-of our
Paetus?' At ille adiurans nusquam se umquam libentius.
Paetus But he swearing nowhere that-he ever more-gladly
2 Hoc si verbis adsecutus es, auris ad te adferam non minus
This if by-words achieved you-have ears to you I-will-bring not less
elegantis; sin autem obsonio, peto a te ne pluris esse
discerning but-if however by-the-fare I-ask of you not of-more-account to-be
balbos quam disertos putes. Me cotidie aliud ex alio
stammerers than the-eloquent you-think Me daily one-thing after another
impedit; sed si me expediero ut in ista loca venire possim,
hinders but if myself I-shall-have-freed that into those places to-come I-can
non committam ut te sero a me certiorem factum putes.
not I-will-permit that that-you late by me more-certain made you-think

Cicero laughed at Paetus' letter and is glad that Paetus can laugh again; he regrets he could not come as he planned. He has given up his cares for the state and gone over to the camp of Epicurus, no longer the easy guest who finished his hunger on the first course but one who carries it to the roast veal. Paetus must unlearn his little baskets, since Cicero now dares to invite Verrius and Camillus and has given Hirtius a dinner without a peacock. His day is visits, letters, and teaching, then the body; he has mourned his country more than a mother an only son.

Cicero Paeto.

Cicero to-Paetus

Dupliciter delectatus sum tuis litteris, et quod ipse 1
Doubly delighted I-have-been by-your letter both because myself
risi et quod te intellexi iam posse ridere; me
I-laughed and because that-you I-understood now to-be-able to-laugh that-I
autem a te ut scurram velitem malis oneratum esse
however by you like a-buffoon skirmisher with-apples loaded to-have-been
non moleste tuli; illud doleo, in ista loca venire me,
not ill I-took this I-regret into those places to-come that-I
ut constitueram, non potuisse; habuisses enim non
as I-had-resolved not to-have-been-able you-would-have-had for not
hospitem sed contubernalem. At quem virum! non eum,
a-guest but a-messmate But what a-man not that
quem tu es solitus promulside conficere; integram
whom you are accustomed with-the-first-course to-finish-off whole
famem ad ovum adfero, itaque usque ad assum vitulinum
hunger to the-egg I-bring and-so all-the-way to roast veal
opera perducitur. Illa mea, quae solebas antea laudare, 'O
the-work is-carried Those my-things which you-used before to-praise O
hominem facilem! o hospitem non gravem!' abierunt; nam
man easy O guest not burdensome have-gone for

omnem nostram de re p. curam, cogitationem de
all our about the-thing public care thought about
dicenda in senatu sententia, commentationem causarum
to-be-delivered in the-senate speech preparation of-cases
abiecimus, in Epicuri nos, adversari nostri, castra
we-have-thrown-away into of-Epicurus we of-opponent our camp
coniecimus, nec tamen ad hanc insolentiam, sed ad illam
have-thrown nor still to this extravagance but to that
tuam lautitiam, veterem dico, cum in sumptum habebas;
your elegance old I-mean when for spending you-had
etsi numquam plura praedia habuisti.
although never more estates you-had

2 Proinde te para; cum homine et edaci tibi res
Accordingly yourself prepare with a-man both voracious to-you the-business
est et qui iam aliquid intellegat (ὀψιμαθεῖς autem homines
is and who now something understands late-learners however men
scis quam insolentes sint); dediscendae tibi sunt sportellae
you-know how overbearing are to-be-unlearned by-you are little-baskets
et artologani tui. Nos iam ex artis tantum habemus, ut
and pastry your We now from of-the-art so-much we-have that
Verrium tuum et Camillum (qua munditia homines, qua
Verrius your and Camillus with-what neatness men with-what
elegantia!) vocare saepius audeamus. Sed vide audaciam;
elegance to-invite rather-often we-may-dare But see the-boldness
etiam Hirtio cenam dedi, sine pavone tamen. In ea cena
even to-Hirtius dinner I-gave without peacock still In that dinner
cocus meus praeter ius fervens nihil non potuit imitari.
cook my except the-sauce hot nothing not could to-imitate

3 Haec igitur est nunc vita nostra: mane salutamus
This therefore is now life our in-the-morning we-receive-callers
domi et bonos viros multos, sed tristis, et hos laetos
at-home both good men many but gloomy and these glad

victores, qui me quidem perofficiose et peramanter
victors who me indeed most-dutifully and most-affectionately
observant. Ubi salutatio defluxit, litteris me involvo, aut
attend When the-calling has-ebbed in-letters myself I-wrap either
scribo aut lego; veniunt etiam qui me audiunt quasi
I-write or I-read there-come also those-who me hear as-if
doctum hominem, quia paulo sum quam ipsi doctior. Inde
a-learned man because a-little I-am than they more-learned Then
corpori omne tempus datur. Patriam eluxi iam et
to-the-body all time is-given My-country I-have-mourned now both
gravius et diutius quam ulla mater unicum filium. Sed
more-heavily and longer than any mother an-only son But
cura, si me amas, ut valeas, ne ego te iacente bona
take-care if me you-love that you-are-well lest I with-you lying-ill goods
tua comedim; statui enim tibi ne aegroto quidem parcere.
your may-eat-up I-have-resolved for you not sick even to-spare

IX.21 · THE PAPIRII

Paetus thinks himself mad to imitate Cicero's thunderbolts, but Cicero writes his letters in everyday words, keeping the grand style for the courts. He corrects Paetus' claim that no Papirius was ever anything but plebeian: there were patrician Papirii of the lesser clans, beginning with Lucius Papirius Mugillanus, censor and consul, then thirteen curule magistrates before Papirius Crassus, and the Cursores and the Massos, whose portraits Paetus should keep. The plebeian Carbos and Turdi were a bad lot, so he had better return to his patrician fathers.

Cicero Paeto s.

Cicero to-Paetus greeting

1 Ain tandem? insanire tibi videris, quod imitere
Do-you-say-so really to-be-mad to-yourself you-seem because you-imitate
verborum meorum, ut scribis, 'fulmina'? Tum insanires,
of-words my as you-write the-thunderbolts Then you-would-be-mad
si consequi non posses; cum vero etiam vincas, me prius
if to-attain(-them) not you-could since indeed even you-surpass me first
inrideas quam te oportet. Qua re nihil tibi opus est
you-should-mock than you it-behooves By-which thing nothing to-you need is
illud a Trabea, sed potius ἀπότευγμα meum. Verum tamen
that from Trabea but rather failure my But still
quid tibi ego videor in epistulis? nonne plebeio sermone
what to-you I do-I-seem in letters surely in-plebeian speech
agere tecum? nec enim semper eodem modo. Quid enim
to-deal with-you nor for always in-the-same way What for
simile habet epistula aut iudicio aut contioni? quin ipsa
likeness has a-letter either to-a-court or to-a-public-meeting nay the-very
iudicia non solemus omnia tractare uno modo. Privatas causas
courts not we-are-wont all to-handle in-one way Private cases
et eas tenuis agimus subtilius, capitis aut famae scilicet
and those slight we-plead more-plainly of-life or reputation of-course
ornatius; epistulas vero cotidianis verbis texere solemus.
more-ornately letters indeed with-everyday words to-weave we-are-wont
2 Sed tamen, mi Paete, qui tibi venit in mentem negare
But still my Paetus how to-you came into mind to-deny
Papirium quemquam umquam nisi plebeium fuisse?
that-a-Papirius any ever except plebeian to-have-been
fuerunt enim patricii minorum gentium, quorum princeps
there-were for patricians of-the-lesser clans of-whom the-first
L. Papirius Mugillanus, qui censor cum L. Sempronio
Lucius Papirius Mugillanus who censor with Lucius Sempronius

Atratino fuit, cum ante consul cum eodem fuisset, annis
Atratinus was when before consul with the-same he-had-been years
post R. c. cccxii; sed tum Papisii dicebamini.
after Rome founded three-hundred-and-twelve but then Papisii you-were-called
Post hunc xiii fuerunt sella curuli ante L. Papirium
After him thirteen there-were in-the-chair curule before Lucius Papirius
Crassum, qui primum Papisius est vocari desitus. Is dictator
Crassus who first Papisius has to-be-called ceased He dictator
cum L. Papirio Cursore magistro equitum factus est annis
with Lucius Papirius Cursor master of-the-horse made was years
post Romam conditam ccccxv et quadriennio post
after Rome founded four-hundred-and-fifteen and four-years after
consul cum K. Duilio. Hunc secutus est Cursor, homo
consul with Kaeso Duilius Him followed has Cursor a-man
valde honoratus; deinde L. Masso aedilicius; inde multi
very honored then Lucius Masso an-ex-aedile thence many
Massones. Quorum quidem tu omnium patriciorum imagines
Massos Of-whom indeed you of-all the-patricians the-portraits
habeas volo. Deinde Carbones et Turdi insequuntur.
you-should-have I-wish Then the-Carbos and the-Turdi follow
Hi plebeii fuerunt; quos contemnas censeo; nam praeter 3
These plebeian were whom you-should-despise I-think for except
hunc C. Carbonem, quem Damasippus occidit, civis
this Gaius Carbo whom Damasippus killed a-citizen
e re p. Carbonum nemo fuit. Cognovimus Cn.
for the-thing public of-the-Carbos no-one was We-have-known Gnaeus
Carbonem et eius fratrem scurram; quid iis improbius?
Carbo and his brother the-buffoon what than-them more-wicked
De hoc amico meo, Rubriae filio, nihil dico. Tres illi
About this friend my of-Rubria the-son nothing I-say Three those
fratres fuerunt, C., Cn., M. Carbones. Marcus P.
brothers were Gaius Gnaeus Marcus the-Carbos Marcus with-Publius

Flacco accusante condemnatus, fur magnus, ex Sicilia;
Flaccus prosecuting condemned a-thief great from Sicily
Gaius accusante L. Crasso cantharidas sumpsisse dicitur.
Gaius prosecuting with-Lucius Crassus Spanish-fly to-have-taken is-said
Is et tr. pl. seditiosus et P. Africano vim
He both tribune of-the-plebs seditious and to-Publius Africanus violence
attulisse existimatus est. Hoc vero, qui Lilybaei a
to-have-brought thought was Than-this-one indeed who at-Lilybaeum by
Pompeio nostro est interfectus, improbior nemo meo iudicio
Pompey our was killed more-wicked no-one in-my judgment
fuit. Iam pater eius accusatus a M. Antonio sutorio
was Now the-father his accused by Marcus Antonius with-cobbler's
atramento absolutus putatur. Qua re ad patres censeo
blacking acquitted is-thought By-which thing to the-patricians I-think
revertare; plebeii quam fuerint importuni vides.
you-should-return plebeians how were troublesome you-see

IX.22 · ON PLAIN SPEAKING

Cicero admires Paetus' freedom of speech, which the Stoics would approve, since they hold that nothing is obscene: if obscenity lay anywhere it would be in the thing or the word, and it is in neither. The thing is told openly on the stage, in comedy and tragedy alike, while innocent words become obscene by accident or by sound, and decent words hide obscene things. Cicero gives example after example and concludes with the Stoic maxim that the wise man calls things by their names, though he himself keeps Plato's modesty.

Cicero Paeto.

Cicero to-Paetus

Amo verecundiam vel potius libertatem loquendi. Atqui 1

I-love modesty or rather freedom of-speaking And-yet

hoc Zenoni placuit, homini me hercule acuto, etsi

this to-Zeno seemed-good a-man so-help-me Hercules sharp although

Academiae nostrae cum eo magna rixa est — sed, ut dico,

to-the-Academy our with him great a-quarrel is but as I-say

placet Stoicis suo quamque rem nomine appellare. Sic

it-pleases the-Stoics by-its-own each thing name to-call Thus

enim disserunt, nihil esse obscenum, nihil turpe dictu; nam

for they-argue nothing to-be obscene nothing shameful to-say for

si quod sit in obscenitate flagitium, id aut in re esse

if any there-is in obscenity disgrace it either in the-thing to-be

aut in verbo; nihil esse tertium. In re non est. Itaque non

or in the-word nothing to-be third In the-thing not it-is And-so not

modo in comoediis res ipsa narratur (ut ille in Demiurgo:

only in comedies the-thing itself is-told as he in the-Demiurgus

'Modo forte — '

Just-now by-chance

Nosti canticum; meministi Roscium:

You-know the-song you-remember Roscius

'Ita me destituit nudum — '

So me he-left naked

Totus est sermo verbis tectus, re impudentior), sed
Whole is the-talk in-words covered in-substance more-shameless but
etiam in tragoediis. Quid est enim illud:
also in tragedies What is for that

'Quae mulier una — '
What woman one

quid, inquam, est:
what I-say is

'Usurpat duplex cubile'?
Takes-to-herself a-double bed

quid?
what

'Huius ferei
Of-this fierce-one
Hic cubile inire est ausus'—?
He the-bed to-enter has dared

quid est:
what is

'Virginem me quondam invitam per vim violat Iuppiter'?
A-virgin me once unwilling by force ravishes Jupiter

Bene 'violat'; atqui idem significat, sed alterum nemo
Well ravishes and-yet the-same it-means but the-other no-one
tulisset.
would-have-borne

Vides igitur, cum eadem res sit, quia verba non sint, nihil 2
You-see therefore though the-same thing is because words not they-are nothing
videri turpe. Ergo in re non est; multo minus in verbis.
to-seem shameful Therefore in the-thing not it-is much less in words
Si enim quod verbo significatur, id turpe non est, verbum,
If for what by-a-word is-meant that shameful not is the-word
quod significat, turpe esse non potest. 'Anum' appellas
which means shameful to-be not can Anus you-call
alieno nomine; cur non suo potius? Si turpe est, ne
by-another's name why not by-its-own rather If shameful it-is not
alieno quidem; si non est, suo potius. Caudam antiqui
by-another's even if not it-is by-its-own rather A-tail the-ancients
'penem' vocabant, ex quo est propter similitudinem
penis used-to-call from which is on-account-of the-likeness
'penicillus'; at hodie 'penis' est in obscenis. 'At vero Piso
a-paintbrush but today penis is among obscenities But indeed Piso
ille Frugi in Annalibus suis queritur adulescentis
the-well-known Frugi in Annals his complains that-young-men
"peni deditos" esse.' Quod tu in epistula appellas suo
to-the-penis devoted to-be What you in a-letter you-call by-its-own
nomine, ille tectius 'penem'; sed, quia multi, factum
name be more-covertly penis but because many(-used-it) become
est tam obscenum quam id verbum, quo tu usus es. Quid,
it-has as obscene as that word which you used have What
quod vulgo dicitur: 'cum nos te voluimus convenire,' num
that commonly is-said when we you wished to-meet surely-not
obscenum est? Memini in senatu disertum consularem ita
obscene is-it I-remember in the-senate an-eloquent consular thus
eloqui: 'Hanc culpam maiorem an illam dicam?' potuit
to-speak-out This fault greater or that will-I-call could-it-be

obscenius? 'Non,' inquis; 'non enim ita sensit.' Non ergo in
more-obscene No you-say not for so he-meant Not therefore in
verbo est; docui autem in re non esse; nusquam igitur est.
the-word it-is I-showed however in the-thing not to-be nowhere therefore it-is
3 'Liberis dare operam' quam honeste dicitur! etiam patres
To-children to-give effort how decently it-is-said even fathers
rogant filios; eius operae nomen non audent dicere. Socraten
ask sons of-that work the-name not they-dare to-say Socrates
fidibus docuit nobilissimus fidicen; is 'Connus' vocitatus est;
the-lyre taught a-most-famous lyre-player he Connus called was
num id obscenum putas? Cum loquimur 'terni,' nihil
surely-not that obscene do-you-think When we-say by-threes no
flagiti dicimus; at cum 'bini,' obscenum est. 'Graecis quidem,'
disgrace we-say but when by-twos obscene it-is To-the-Greeks indeed
inquies. Nihil est ergo in verbo, quoniam et ego Graece scio
you-will-say Nothing is therefore in the-word since both I Greek know
et tamen tibi dico 'bini,' idque tu facis, quasi ego Graece,
and still to-you I-say by-twos and-that you do as-if I in-Greek
non Latine dixerim. 'Ruta' et 'menta' recte utrumque; volo
not in-Latin I-had-said Rue and mint correctly both I-wish
mentam pusillam ita appellare ut 'rutulam'; non licet. Belle
mint tiny so to-call as little-rue not it-is-allowed Pretty
'tectoriola'; dic ergo etiam 'pavimenta' isto modo; non
little-plasterworks say therefore also pavements in-that way not
potes. Viden igitur nihil esse nisi ineptias, turpitudinem
you-can Do-you-see therefore nothing to-be except silliness shamefulness
nec in verbo esse nec in re, itaque nusquam esse?
neither in the-word to-be nor in the-thing and-so nowhere to-be
4 Igitur in verbis honestis obscena ponimus. Quid enim? non
Therefore in words decent obscene-things we-put What for not
honestum verbum est 'divisio'? at inest obscenum, cui
decent word is division but is-in(-it) an-obscene(-word) to-which

respondet ‘intercapedo.’ Num haec ergo obscena sunt?
corresponds interval Surely-not these therefore obscene are
Nos autem ridicule: si dicimus ‘Ille patrem strangulavit,’
We however absurdly if we-say He his-father strangled
honorem non praefamur; sin de Aurelia aliquid aut
pardon not we-beg-beforehand but-if about Aurelia something or
Lollia, honos praefandus est. Et quidem iam etiam
Lollia pardon to-be-begged-beforehand is And indeed now even
non obscena verba pro obscenis sunt. ‘“Batuit,” inquit,
not obscene words as obscene are He-beat he-says
impudenter, “depsit” multo impudentius.’ Atqui neutrum
shamelessly he-kneaded much more-shamelessly And-yet neither
est obscenum. Stultorum plena sunt omnia. ‘Testes’ verbum
is obscene Of-fools full are all-things Witnesses a-word
honestissimum in iudicio, alio loco non nimis; et
most-decent in court in-another place not too(-much) and
honesti ‘colei Lanuvini,’ ‘Cliternini’ non honesti. Quid?
decent testicles of-Lanuvium of-Cliternum not decent What
ipsa res modo honesta, modo turpis; suppedit, flagitium
the-very thing now decent now shameful it-breaks-wind disgrace
est; iam erit nudus in balneo, non reprehendes.
it-is soon he-will-be naked in the-bath not you-will-blame(-it)
Habes scholam Stoicam: ὁ σοφὸς εὐθυρρημονήσει. Quam 5
You-have a-lecture Stoic the wise-man will-speak-plainly How
multa ex uno verbo tuo! Te adversus me omnia audere
many-things from one word your That-you against me all-things to-dare
gratum est; ego servo et servabo (sic enim adsuevi)
pleasing is I keep and will-keep so for I-have-grown-used
Platonis verecundiam. Itaque tectis verbis ea ad te
of-Plato the-modesty And-so in-covered words those-things to you
scripsi, quae apertissimis agunt Stoici; sed illi etiam
I-have-written which in-the-most-open treat the-Stoics but they even

crepitus aiunt aeque liberos ac ructus esse oportere.
wind-breakings say as-much free as belches to-be to-be-proper
Honorem igitur K. Martiis. Tu me diliges et valebis.
Pardon therefore on-the-Kalends of-March You me will-esteem and will-be-well

IX.23 · A GUEST FOR THE GOUTY

Cicero came to his Cuman villa yesterday and may visit Paetus tomorrow, warning him beforehand. Caeparius, met in the Gallinarian wood, told him that Paetus was in bed with gout. Cicero is sorry, but he will come all the same, to see him, visit him, and dine, since he does not suppose his cook has gout too; Paetus may expect a guest who eats little and hates costly dinners.

Cicero Paeto.
Cicero to-Paetus
1 Here veni in Cumanum, cras ad te fortasse; sed cum
Yesterday I-came into my-Cuman-villa tomorrow to you perhaps but when
certum sciam, faciam te paulo ante certiorem; etsi M.
for-certain I-know I-will-make you a-little before more-certain although Marcus
Caeparius, cum mihi in silva Gallinaria obviam venisset
Caeparius when to-me in the-wood Gallinarian in-the-way had-come
quaesissemque quid ageres, dixit te in lecto esse,
and-I-had-asked what you-were-doing he-said that-you in bed to-be
quod ex pedibus laborares. Tuli scilicet moleste, ut
because in the-feet you-were-suffering I-took(-it) of-course ill as
debui, sed tamen constitui ad te venire, ut et viderem
I-ought but still I-resolved to you to-come that both I-might-see
te et viserem et cenarem etiam; non enim arbitror cocum
you and visit and dine too not for I-think a-cook

etiam te arthriticum habere. Exspecta igitur hospitem
also that-you arthritic to-have Expect therefore a-guest
cum minime edacem tum inimicum cenis sumptuosis.
both least voracious and hostile to-dinners costly

IX.24 · DINE OUT

Cicero will help Rufus, whose letters, like Paetus', showed concern for his safety; it was Paetus' letters that first alerted him to the plots laid against him at Aquinum and Fabrateria. He is sorry Paetus has stopped dining out, for he deprives himself of delight and may forget how to give little dinners; Spurinna, told of his habits, foresaw grave danger to the state unless he returned to them with the west wind. Cicero seriously urges him to live among good and loving friends, since the Romans rightly call a dinner a convivium, a living together; and Cicero, for all his jokes, thinks day and night only of his citizens' safety.

Cicero Paeto s. d.
Cicero to-Paetus greeting says
Rufum istum, amicum tuum, de quo iterum iam ad me 1
Rufus that friend your about whom again now to me
scribis, adiuvarem, quantum possem, etiam si ab eo laesus
you-write I-would-help as-much-as I-could even if by him hurt
essem, cum te tanto opere viderem eius causa laborare;
I-had-been since you so much I-saw his for-the-sake to-be-concerned
cum vero et ex tuis litteris et ex illius ad me missis
since indeed both from your letter and from his to me sent
intellegam et iudicem magnae curae ei salutem meam
I-understand and judge of-great concern to-him safety my
fuisse, non possum ei non amicus esse, neque solum
to-have-been not I-can to-him not friend to-be nor only
tua commendatione, quae apud me, ut debet, valet plurimum,
by-your recommendation which with me as it-ought avails most

sed etiam voluntate ac iudicio meo. Volo enim te scire, mi
but also by-the-will and judgment my I-wish for you to-know my
Paete, initium mihi suspicionis et cautionis et diligentiae
Paetus the-beginning to-me of-suspicion and of-caution and of-care
fuisse litteras tuas, quibus litteris congruentes fuerunt aliae
to-have-been letter your with-which letter agreeing were others
postea multorum. Nam et Aquini et Fabrateriae consilia
afterward of-many For both at-Aquinum and at-Fabrateria plans
sunt inita de me, quae te video inaudisse, et, quasi
have-been formed about me which that-you I-see to-have-heard and as-if
divinarent quam iis molestus essem futurus, nihil aliud
they-divined how to-them troublesome I-was going-to-be nothing else
egerunt nisi me ut opprimerent. Quod ego non suspicans
they-did except me that they-might-crush Which I not suspecting
incautior fuissem, nisi a te admonitus essem. Quam
less-careful would-have-been unless by you warned I-had-been Which
ob rem iste tuus amicus apud me commendatione non
on-account-of thing that your friend with me recommendation not
eget. Utinam ea fortuna rei p. sit, ut ille me unum
needs Would-that such fortune of-the-thing public be that he me alone
gratissimum possit cognoscere! Sed haec hactenus.
most-grateful may-be-able to-know But these-things so-far

2 Te ad cenas itare desisse moleste fero; magna enim
That-you to dinners to-go to-have-ceased ill I-bear of-great for
te delectatione et voluptate privasti; deinde etiam
yourself delight and pleasure you-have-deprived then also
vereor (licet enim verum dicere) ne nescio quid illud,
I-fear it-is-allowed for the-truth to-say lest I-know-not what that
quod solebas, dediscas et obliviscare, cenulas facere. Nam
which you-used you-unlearn and forget little-dinners to-give For
si tum, cum habebas quos imitarere, non multum
if then when you-had whom you-might-imitate not much

proficiebas, quid nunc te facturum putem? Spurinna
you-were-advancing what now that-you going-to-do should-I-think Spurinna
quidem, cum ei rem demonstrassem et vitam tuam
indeed when to-him the-matter I-had-explained and life your
superiorem exposuissem, magnum periculum summae rei
former I-had-set-out great danger of-the-supreme thing
p. demonstrabat, nisi ad superiorem consuetudinem tum,
public he-showed unless to the-former habit then
cum Favonius flaret, revertisses; hoc tempore ferri
when the-west-wind blew you-returned at-this time to-be-borne
posse, si forte tu frigus ferre non posses.
to-be-able if perhaps you cold to-bear not you-could
Sed me hercule, mi Paete, extra iocum moneo te, quod 3
But so-help-me Hercules my Paetus beyond joking I-advise you what
pertinere ad beate vivendum arbitror, ut cum viris bonis,
to-pertain to happily living I-think that with men good
iucundis, amantibus tui vivas. Nihil est aptius vitae, nihil
delightful loving of-you you-live Nothing is more-fitting for-life nothing
ad beate vivendum accommodatius. Nec id ad voluptatem
to happily living more-suited Nor that to pleasure
refero sed ad communitatem vitae atque victus remissionemque
I-refer but to the-sharing of-life and of-living and-the-relaxation
animorum, quae maxime sermone efficitur familiari, qui
of-minds which most by-conversation is-brought-about familiar which
est in conviviis dulcissimus, ut sapientius nostri quam
is in banquets sweetest as more-wisely our(-ancestors) than
Graeci; illi συμπόσια aut σύνδειπνα, id est compotationes
the-Greeks they drinking-parties or dinings-together that is drinkings-together
aut concenationes, nos 'convivia,' quod tum maxime simul
or dinings-together we livings-together because then most together

vivitur. Vides ut te philosophando revocare coner ad cenas.
there-is-living You-see how you by-philosophizing to-call-back I-try to dinners
Cura ut valeas; id foris cenitando facillime consequere.
Take-care that you-are-well that out by-dining most-easily you-will-attain
4 Sed cave, si me amas, existimes me, quod iocosius
But beware if me you-love you-think that-I because more-jokingly
scribam, abiecisse curam rei p. Sic tibi, mi
I-write to-have-thrown-away care of-the-thing public Thus yourself my
Paete, persuade, me dies et noctes nihil aliud agere,
Paetus persuade that-I days and nights nothing else to-do
nihil curare, nisi ut mei cives salvi liberique sint. Nullum
nothing to-care-for except that my citizens safe and-free are No
locum praetermitto monendi, agendi, providendi; hoc
occasion I-pass-over of-warning of-acting of-providing with-this
denique animo sum ut, si in hac cura atque administratione
finally mind I-am that if in this care and management
vita mihi ponenda sit, praeclare actum mecum putem.
life by-me to-be-laid-down be splendidly done with-me I-would-think
Etiam atque etiam vale.
Again and again farewell

IX.25 · THE PROCONSUL'S STUDIES

Paetus' letter, with advice drawn from Pyrrhus and Cineas, has made Cicero a supreme general; he means to obey it and, besides, to keep some small boats on the coast, since nothing, they say, is better against Parthian horse. Cicero has put into practice in this command the whole Education of Cyrus, which he had read to tatters. In earnest, he asks Paetus to take up the cause of Marcus Fadius, his friend and his ally against Paetus' Epicureans, whose brother Quintus has advertised for sale their shared farm at Herculaneum; Paetus should stop the brothers going to law.

Cicero imp. Paeto.

Cicero imperator to-Paetus

Summum me ducem litterae tuae reddiderunt. Plane 1

A-supreme me general letter your have-made Quite

nesciebam te tam peritum esse rei militaris;

I-did-not-know that-you so skilled to-be in-the-matter military

Pyrrhi te libros et Cineae video lectitasse. Itaque

of-Pyrrhus that-you the-books and of-Cineas I-see to-have-read-often And-so

obtemperare cogito praeceptis tuis, hoc amplius, navicularum

to-obey I-intend precepts your this besides of-small-boats

habere aliquid in ora maritima. Contra equitem Parthum

to-have some on the-coast sea Against horseman Parthian

negant ullam armaturam meliorem inveniri posse. Sed quid

they-deny any armament better to-be-found to-be-able But why

ludimus? nescis quo cum imperatore tibi negotium

are-we-joking you-do-not-know what with general to-you business

sit. Παιδείαν Κύρου quam contrieram legendo, totam in

is The-Education of-Cyrus which I-had-worn-out by-reading whole in

hoc imperio explicavi.

this command I-have-unfolded

Sed iocabimur alias coram, ut spero, brevi tempore; 2

But we-will-joke another-time face-to-face as I-hope in-short time

nunc ades ad imperandum vel ad parendum potius; sic enim

now come to commanding or to obeying rather so for

antiqui loquebantur. Cum M. Fadio, quod scire te

the-ancients spoke With Marcus Fadius as to-know that-you

arbitror, mihi summus usus est valdeque eum diligo

I-think to-me the-highest intimacy is and-very-much him I-esteem

cum propter summam probitatem eius ac singularem

both on-account-of the-highest uprightness his and singular

modestiam, tum quod in iis controversiis, quas habeo cum
modesty and because in those disputes which I-have with
tuis combibonibus Epicuriis, optima opera eius uti soleo.
your fellow-drinkers Epicurean the-best service his to-use I-am-wont
3 Is cum ad me Laudiceam venisset mecumque ego eum esse
He when to me at-Laodicea had-come and-with-me I him to-be
vellem, repente percussus est atrocissimis litteris, in quibus
wished suddenly struck he-was by-most-dreadful letters in which
scriptum erat fundum Herculanensem a Q. Fadio fratre
written it-was that-the-farm Herculanean by Quintus Fadius his-brother
proscriptum esse, qui fundus cum eo communis esset.
advertised(-for-sale) to-have-been which farm with him common was
Id M. Fadius pergraviter tulit existimavitque fratrem
This Marcus Fadius very-heavily took and-thought that-the-brother
suum, hominem non sapientem, impulsu inimicorum
his a-man not wise by-the-instigation of-enemies
suorum eo progressum esse. Nunc si me amas, mi
his to-that gone to-have Now if me you-love my
Paete, negotium totum suscipe; molestia Fadium libera.
Paetus the-business whole take-up from-trouble Fadius free
Auctoritate tua nobis opus est et consilio et etiam gratia.
Influence your to-us need is both counsel and also favor
Noli pati litigare fratres et iudiciis turpibus conflictari.
Do-not allow to-go-to-law the-brothers and in-trials disgraceful to-be-embroiled
Matonem et Pollionem inimicos habet Fadius. Quid multa?
Mato and Pollio as-enemies has Fadius What many
non me hercule tam perscribere possum quam mihi
not so-help-me Hercules so-well to-write-out I-can as to-me
gratum feceris, si otiosum Fadium reddideris. Id
pleasing you-will-have-done if at-ease Fadius you-will-have-made That
ille in te positum esse putat mihique persuadet.
he in you placed to-be thinks and-to-me persuades

Cicero writes from Volumnius Eutrapelus' dinner table, Atticus above him and Verrius below. Paetus may wonder at such cheerful slavery, but what else is he to do? He lives in his books, and after them a dinner is his only rest. Below Eutrapelus lay Cytheris; Cicero did not suspect she would be there, and Aristippus, he recalls, did not blush to have Lais. Such things never moved him, even young; he laughs off his sorrows, and Paetus, who mocked the philosopher Dio, need not fear a guest who brings little appetite and much jesting.

Cicero Paeto s. d.

Cicero to-Paetus greeting says

Accubueram hora nona, cum ad te harum exemplum 1

I-had-lain-down at-the-hour ninth when to you of-these a-copy

in codicillis exaravi. Dices: 'ubi?' Apud Volumnium

on tablets I-scratched-out You-will-say where At Volumnius

Eutrapelum, et quidem supra me Atticus, infra Verrius,

Eutrapelus' and indeed above me Atticus below Verrius

familiares tui. Miraris tam exhilaratam esse servitutem

friends of-yours Do-you-wonder so cheerful to-be slavery

nostram? Quid ergo faciam? (te consulo, qui philosophum

our What therefore will-I-do you I-consult who a-philosopher

audis) angar, excruciem me? Quid adsequar? deinde

hear should-I-be-tormented should-I-torture myself What will-I-gain then

quem ad finem? 'Vivas,' inquis 'in litteris.' An quicquam me

what to end Live you-say in letters Or anything that-I

aliud agere censes aut posse vivere, nisi in litteris viverem?

else to-do do-you-think or to-be-able to-live unless in letters I-lived

Sed est earum etiam non satietas sed quidam modus; a

But there-is of-them even not surfeit but a-certain limit from

quibus cum discessi, etsi minimum mihi est in cena

which when I-have-departed although least to-me is in dinner

(quod tu unum ζήτημα Dioni philosopho posuisti), tamen
which you one problem to-Dio the-philosopher you-proposed still
quid potius faciam, prius quam me dormitum conferam,
what rather I-should-do before than myself to-sleep I-betake
non reperio. Audi reliqua: Infra Eutrapelum Cytheris accubuit.
not I-find Hear the-rest Below Eutrapelus Cytheris reclined
2 'In eo igitur,' inquis, 'convivio Cicero ille,
At that then you-say banquet Cicero that

Quem aspectabant, cuius ob os Graii ora obvertebant sua?'
Whom they-gazed-at whose before face the-Greeks faces turned their

Non me hercule suspicatus sum illam adfore.
Not so-help-me Hercules suspected I-have that-she to-be-going-to-be-present
Sed tamen ne Aristippus quidem ille Socraticus erubuit,
But still not Aristippus even the-famous Socratic blushed
cum esset obiectum habere eum Laida. 'Habeo,' inquit,
when it-had-been charged to-have that-he Lais I-have he-said
'non habeor a Laide' (Graece hoc melius; tu, si voles,
not I-am-had by Lais in-Greek this better you if you-wish
interpretabere); me vero nihil istorum ne iuvenem quidem
you-will-translate(-it) me indeed none of-those-things not young even
movit umquam, ne nunc senem; convivio delector; ibi
moved ever not-even now old in-the-banquet I-delight there
loquor quod in solum, ut dicitur, et gemitum in risus
I-talk what into the-ground as is-said and groans into laughs
maximos transfero.
loudest I-transfer
3 An tu id melius, qui etiam philosophum inriseris, qui cum
Or you that better who even a-philosopher have-mocked who when
ille, 'si quis quid quaereret,' dixisset, cenam te quaerere
he if anyone anything were-asking had-said dinner that-you to-ask

a mane dixeris? Ille baro te putabat quaesiturum, unum
from morning you-said That dolt that-you thought going-to-ask one
caelum esset an innumerabilia. Quid ad te? At hercule
heaven there-was or innumerable What to you But by-Hercules
cena non quid ad te tibi praesertim. Sic igitur vivitur:
dinner not what to you to-you especially Thus therefore life-is-lived
Cotidie aliquid legitur aut scribitur; dein ne amicis nihil
Daily something is-read or written then lest to-friends nothing
tribuamus, epulamur una non modo non contra legem,
we-grant we-feast together not only not against the-law
si ulla nunc lex est, sed etiam intra legem et quidem
if any now law there-is but even within the-law and indeed
aliquanto. Qua re nihil est quod adventum nostrum
by-a-good-deal By-which thing nothing there-is why arrival our
extimescas; non multi cibi hospitem accipies, multi ioci.
you-should-dread not of-much food a-guest you-will-receive of-much jest

BOOK X

X.1 · WAITING FOR YOUR CONSULSHIP

Since he was called back from his journey to Greece, Cicero has had no peace from Mark Antony, whose savagery lets no one speak or even look freely. He fears not for his own life, which has had enough, but for his country, and the wait for Plancus' consulship is so long that one must pray the state can breathe until then, with senate and people powerless and no laws or courts left. He urges Plancus to throw himself into the republic's cause, and he will take any service done to Furnius as done to himself.

Cicero Planco.

Cicero to-Plancus

Et afui proficiscens in Graeciam et, postea quam 1
Both I-was-away setting-out into Greece and after that
de medio cursu rei p. sum voce revocatus,
from the-middle course of-the-thing public I-was by-the-voice recalled
numquam per M. Antonium quietus fui; cuius tanta
never through Mark Antony at-peace I-have-been whose so-great
est non insolentia (nam id quidem vulgare vitium est) sed
is not insolence for that indeed common vice is but
immanitas, non modo ut vocem sed ne vultum quidem
savagery not only that voice but not face even
liberum possit ferre cuiusquam. Itaque mihi maximae
free he-can to-bear of-anyone And-so to-me of-the-greatest
curae est non de mea quidem vita, cui satis feci
concern is not about my indeed life to-which enough I-have-done
vel aetate vel factis vel, si quid etiam hoc ad rem
either by-age or by-deeds or if at-all also this to the-matter
pertinet, gloria, sed me patria sollicitat in primisque,
pertains by-glory but me my-country troubles among and-the-first

mi Plance, exspectatio consulatus tui, quae ita longa est,
my Plancus the-awaiting of-the-consulship your which so long is
ut optandum sit ut possimus ad id tempus rei p.
that to-be-wished it-is that we-may-be-able to that time of-the-thing public
spiritum ducere. Quae potest enim spes esse in ea re
the-breath to-draw What can for hope there-be in that thing
p., in qua hominis impotentissimi atque intemperantissimi
public in which of-a-man most-uncontrolled and most-violent
armis oppressa sunt omnia, et in qua nec senatus nec
by-the-arms crushed are all-things and in which neither senate nor
populus vim habet ullam, nec leges ullae sunt nec iudicia
people force has any nor laws any are nor courts
nec omnino simulacrum aliquod ac vestigium civitatis?
nor at-all semblance any and trace of-a-state

2 Sed quoniam acta omnia mitti ad te arbitrabar, nihil
But since the-proceedings all to-be-sent to you I-supposed nothing
erat quod singulis de rebus scriberem; illud autem erat
there-was why single about things I-should-write that however was
amoris mei, quem a tua pueritia susceptum non servavi
of-the-love my which from your boyhood taken-up not I-have-kept
solum sed etiam auxi, monere te atque hortari ut in rem
only but also increased to-warn you and to-urge that into the-thing
p. omni cogitatione curaque incumberes. Quae si ad tuum
public with-all thought and-care you-throw-yourself Which if to your
tempus perducitur, facilis gubernatio est; ut perducatur
time is-carried-through easy the-steering is that it-be-carried-through
autem magnae cum diligentiae est tum etiam fortunae.
however of-great both of-diligence it-is and also of-fortune

3 Sed et te aliquanto ante, ut spero, habebimus et, praeterquam
But both you somewhat before as I-hope we-shall-have and besides
quod rei p. consulere debemus, tamen tuae dignitati
that for-the-thing public to-consult we-ought still your dignity

ita favemus, ut omne nostrum consilium, studium,
so we-favor that all our counsel zeal
officium, operam, laborem, diligentiam ad amplitudinem
duty effort labor diligence to the-greatness
tuam conferamus. Ita facillime et rei p., quae mihi
your we-devote So most-easily both to-the-thing public which to-me
carissima est, et amicitiae nostrae, quam sanctissime
dearest is and to-the-friendship our which most-sacredly
nobis colendam puto, me intellego satis facturum.
by-us to-be-cherished I-think that-I I-understand enough going-to-do
Furnium nostrum tanti a te fieri, quantum ipsius 4
That-Furnius our at-so-much by you to-be-valued as-much-as his-own
humanitas et dignitas postulat, nec miror et gaudeo
humanity and worth demands neither I-wonder and I-rejoice
teque hoc existimare volo, quicquid in eum iudici
and-you this to-think I-wish whatever on him of-judgment
officique contuleris, id ita me accipere, ut in me ipsum
and-of-service you-bestow that so that-I to-receive that on me myself
te putem contulisse.
that-you I-think to-have-bestowed(-it)

X.2 · AMONG THE SWORDS

Cicero would have supported Plancus' honors in the senate if he could have gone there safely and with dignity, but no one who thinks freely about the state is safe among unpunished swords, nor does it suit him to speak where armed men hear him better than senators. Plancus will lack nothing from him in private matters, nor in public ones where his presence is needed, even at some risk; in what can be done without him he asks Plancus to let him consider his own safety and standing.

Cicero Planco s.

Cicero to-Plancus greeting

1 Meum studium honori tuo pro necessitudine
My zeal to-the-honor your in-accordance-with connection
nostra non defuisset, si aut tuto in senatum aut
our not would-have-been-lacking if either safely into the-senate or
honeste venire potuissem; sed nec sine periculo quisquam
honorably to-come I-had-been-able but neither without danger anyone
libere de re p. sentiens versari potest in summa
freely about the-thing public thinking to-move-about can in the-utmost
impunitate gladiorum, nec nostrae dignitatis videtur esse
impunity of-swords nor of-our dignity seems to-be
ibi sententiam de re p. dicere, ubi me et melius
there an-opinion about the-thing public to-speak where me both better
et propius audiant armati quam senatores.
and nearer may-hear armed-men than senators

2 Quapropter in privatis rebus nullum neque officium neque
Wherefore in private matters no neither duty nor
studium meum desiderabis; ne in publicis quidem, si quid
zeal my you-will-miss not in public even if anything
erit in quo me interesse necesse sit, umquam deero
there-will-be in which that-I to-take-part necessary it-is ever I-shall-fail
ne cum periculo quidem meo dignitati tuae; in iis autem
not with danger even my the-dignity your in those however
rebus, quae nihilo minus, ut ego absim, confici
matters which by-nothing less though I am-absent to-be-accomplished
poterunt, peto a te ut me rationem habere velis
will-be-able I-ask of you that that-I account to-have you-be-willing
et salutis et dignitatis meae.
both of-the-safety and of-the-dignity my

Cicero was glad to see Furnius, who told him of Plancus' courage, justice, and prudence and of his kindness to Furnius himself. Cicero's tie with Plancus' family is older than Plancus; he has loved him since boyhood. Plancus has risen through virtue and fortune despite envy, and men once thought he served the times too much; now his judgment is free, and as consul-elect, eloquent, and with the state bereft of such men, he should seek the glory that comes from governing it well. Cicero writes from love, not to teach.

Cicero Planco s.

Cicero to-Plancus greeting

Cum ipsum Furnium per se vidi libentissime tum hoc 1
Both himself Furnius for himself I-saw most-gladly and by-this
libentius, quod illum audiens te videbar audire. Nam et
more-gladly because him hearing you I-seemed to-hear For both
in re militari virtutem et in administranda provincia
in the-matter military courage and in administering the-province
iustitiam et in omni genere prudentiam mihi tuam
justice and in every kind prudence to-me your
exposuit et praeterea mihi non ignaram in consuetudine et
he-set-out and besides to-me not unknown in intercourse and
familiaritate suavitatem tuam; adiunxit praeterea summam
friendship charm your he-added besides the-highest
erga se liberalitatem. Quae omnia mihi iucunda, hoc
toward himself generosity Which all to-me pleasant this
extremum etiam gratum fuit.
last also gratifying was

Ego, Plance, necessitudinem constitutam habui cum domo 2
I Plancus connection established I-had with house
vestra ante aliquanto quam tu natus es, amorem
your before somewhat than you born you-were love

autem erga te ab ineunte pueritia tua, confirmata iam
however toward you from beginning boyhood your with-strengthened now
aetate familiaritatem cum studio meo tum iudicio tuo
age friendship both by-zeal my and by-judgment your
constitutam. His de causis mirabiliter faveo dignitati tuae,
established These for reasons wonderfully I-favor dignity your
quam mihi tecum statuo debere esse communem. Omnia
which to-me with-you I-decide to-be-bound to-be common All-things
summa consecutus es virtute duce, comite fortuna
highest attained you-have with-virtue as-leader as-companion fortune
eaque es adeptus adulescens multis invidentibus, quos
and-them you-have won a-young-man many with-envying whom
ingenio industriaque fregisti; nunc me amantissimum
by-talent and-industry you-have-broken now me most-loving
tui, nemini concedentem qui tibi vetustate necessitudinis
of-you to-no-one yielding who to-you by-age of-connection
potior possit esse, si audies, omnem tibi reliquae
closer can be if you-will-hear all for-yourself of-the-remaining
vitae dignitatem ex optimo rei p. statu adquires.
life dignity from the-best of-the-thing public condition you-will-acquire

3 Scis profecto (nihil enim te fugere potuit) fuisse
You-know surely nothing for you to-escape could to-have-been
quoddam tempus, cum homines existimarent te nimis
a-certain time when men thought that-you too-much
servire temporibus, quod ego quoque existimarem, te
to-serve the-times which I also would-think that-you
si ea quae patiebare probare etiam arbitrarer; sed
if those-things which you-were-enduring to-approve also I-supposed but
cum intellegerem quid sentires, prudenter te arbitrabar
since I-understood what you-felt wisely that-you I-thought
videre quid posses. Nunc alia ratio est. Omnium
to-see what you-could(-do) Now other the-case is Of-all

rerum tuum iudicium est, idque liberum. Consul es
things your judgment is and-that free Consul you-are
designatus, optima aetate, summa eloquentia, maxima
elect at-the-best age with-highest eloquence with-the-greatest
orbitate rei p. virorum talium. Incumbe, per deos
bereavement of-the-thing public of-men such Throw-yourself by the-gods
immortalis! in eam curam et cogitationem, quae tibi
immortal into that care and thought which to-you
summam dignitatem et gloriam adferat; unus autem est,
highest dignity and glory may-bring one however is
hoc praesertim tempore, per tot annos re p.
at-this especially time through so-many years with-the-thing public
divexata, rei p. bene gerendae cursus ad gloriam.
harried of-the-thing public well to-be-managed the-course to glory
Haec amore magis impulsus scribenda ad te putavi 4
These-things by-love rather driven to-be-written to you I-thought
quam quo te arbitrarer monitis et praeceptis egere;
than because that-you I-supposed advice and precepts to-need
sciebam enim ex iisdem te haec haurire fontibus,
I-knew for from the-same that-you these-things to-draw springs
ex quibus ipse hauseram. Qua re modum faciam.
from which I-myself had-drawn By-which thing a-limit I-shall-set
Nunc tantum significandum putavi, ut potius amorem tibi
Now only to-be-signified I-thought that rather love to-you
ostenderem meum quam ostentarem prudentiam. Interea
I-might-show my than I-might-display prudence Meanwhile
quae ad dignitatem tuam pertinere arbitrabor studiose
what-things to dignity your to-pertain I-shall-think zealously
diligenterque curabo.
and-diligently I-shall-attend-to

Plancus is grateful for Cicero's letter and excuses his silence: he had heard Cicero had left and learned of his return only from the letter. He owes him every duty for his father's sake and his own. Cicero's counsel is as faithful as it is wise, and nothing could draw Plancus to another side; whatever he can do will serve the republic. He awaits news of Hither Gaul and of Rome in January, and he fears that the peoples of his province may take Rome's troubles as their chance.

Plancus Ciceroni.

Plancus to-Cicero

1 Gratissimae mihi tuae litterae fuerunt, quas ex Furni
Most-welcome to-me your letter was which from of-Furnius
sermone te scripsisse animadverti. Ego autem praeteriti
the-talk that-you to-have-written I-perceived I however of-the-past
temporis excusationem adfero, quod te profectum audieram
time excuse I-bring that that-you set-out I-had-heard
nec multo ante redisse scii quam ex epistula tua
nor much before to-have-returned I-knew than from letter your
cognovi. Nullum enim in te officium ne minimum quidem
I-learned No for toward you duty not the-least even
sine maxima culpa videor posse praeterire, in quo tuendo
without the-greatest fault I-seem to-be-able to-pass-over in which maintaining
habeo causas plurimas vel paternae necessitudinis vel meae
I-have reasons very-many either of-paternal connection or of-my
a pueritia observantiae vel tui erga me mutui amoris.
from boyhood attentiveness or of-your toward me mutual love
2 Qua re, mi Cicero, quod mea tuaque patitur aetas,
By-which thing my Cicero as-far-as my and-your allows age
persuade tibi te unum esse in quo ego colendo
persuade yourself that-you alone to-be in whom I by-cherishing
patriam mihi constituerim sanctitatem. Omnia igitur tua
my-country for-myself I-have-set-up sanctity All therefore your

consilia mihi non magis prudentiae plena, quae summa est,
counsels to-me not more of-prudence full which the-highest is
videntur quam fidelitatis, quam ego ex mea conscientia
seem than of-faithfulness which I from my consciousness
metior. Qua re, si aut aliter sentirem, certe admonitio
I-measure By-which thing if either otherwise I-thought certainly admonition
tua me reprimere aut, si dubitarem, hortatio impellere posset
your me to-restrain or if I-were-hesitating exhortation to-drive could
ut id sequerer, quod tu optimum putares; nunc vero quid
that that I-should-follow which you best thought now indeed what
est quod me in aliam partem trahere possit? Quaecumque
is-there that me into another direction to-draw can Whatever
in me bona sunt aut fortunae beneficio tributa aut meo
in me goods are either of-fortune by-the-kindness bestowed or by-my
labore parta, etsi a te propter amorem carius sunt
labor acquired although by you on-account-of love more-dearly have-been
aestimata, tamen vel inimicissimi iudicio tanta sunt
valued still even of-the-most-hostile in-the-judgment so-great they-are
ut praeter bonam famam nihil desiderare videantur.
that beyond good report nothing to-want they-seem
Qua re hoc unum tibi persuade, quantum viribus 3
By-which thing this one yourself persuade as-much-as by-strength
eniti, consilio providere, auctoritate monere potuero, hoc
to-strive by-counsel to-foresee by-influence to-warn I-shall-be-able this
omne rei p. semper futurum. Non est ignotus mihi
all for-the-thing public always going-to-be Not is unknown to-me
sensus tuus. Neque si facultas optabilis mihi quidem
feeling your Nor if the-opportunity desirable to-me indeed
tui praesentis esset, umquam a tuis consiliis discreparem
of-you present were ever from your counsels I-would-differ

nec nunc committam ut ullum meum factum reprehendere
nor now I-will-allow that any my deed to-blame
iure possis.
justly you-may-be-able

4 Sum in exspectatione omnium rerum, quid in Gallia citeriore,
I-am in expectation of-all things what in Gaul Hither
quid in urbe mense Ianuario geratur, ut sciam. Interim
what in the-city in-the-month of-January is-done that I-may-know Meanwhile
maximam hic sollicitudinem curamque sustineo, ne inter
the-greatest here anxiety and-care I-bear lest among
aliena vitia hae gentes nostra mala suam putent occasionem.
others' vices these peoples our ills their-own may-think opportunity
Quod si proinde ut ipse mereor mihi successerit, certe
But if accordingly as I-myself deserve to-me it-will-have-succeeded certainly
et tibi, cui maxime cupio, et omnibus viris bonis
both to-you whom most I-desire(-to) and to-all men good
satis faciam. Fac valeas meque mutuo diligas.
enough I-shall-do Make you-are-well and-me in-return you-love

X.5 · LOVE OF COUNTRY

Cicero received two copies of the same letter, proof of Plancus' care, and cannot decide whether to value more his affection or his spirit toward the state. Love of country is the greatest bond, but personal affection is sweeter, and Plancus' recalling of his father's friendship delighted him, as did his declaration for the republic. Cicero urges him to throw himself into its cause: fortune has given him great things, but whatever he does now in these hard times will be wholly his own, with all hatred turned on Antony and great hope placed in him.

Cicero Planco s.

Cicero to-Plancus greeting

Binas a te accepi litteras eodem exemplo, quod 1

Two from you I-received letters in-the-same copy which

ipsum argumento mihi fuit diligentiae tuae; intellexi enim

itself as-proof to-me was of-the-diligence your I-understood for

te laborare ut ad me mihi exspectatissimae litterae

that-you to-take-pains that to me by-me most-awaited letters

perferrentur. Ex quibus cepi fructum duplicem mihique

might-be-delivered From which I-gained fruit double and-to-me

in comparatione difficilem ad iudicandum, amoremne erga

in comparison hard for judging whether-love toward

me tuum an animum in rem p. pluris aestimandum

me your or spirit toward the-thing public at-more to-be-valued

putarem. Est omnino patriae caritas meo quidem iudicio

I-should-think Is altogether of-country love in-my indeed judgment

maxima, sed amor voluntatisque coniunctio plus certe habet

greatest but love and-of-will union more certainly has

suavitatis. Itaque commemoratio tua paternae necessitudinis

of-sweetness And-so the-recalling your of-paternal connection

benevolentiaeque eius, quam erga me a pueritia contulisses,

and-goodwill that which toward me from boyhood you-had-borne

ceterarumque rerum, quae ad eam sententiam pertinebant,

and-of-the-other things which to that purpose pertained

incredibilem mihi laetitiam attulerunt;

incredible to-me joy brought

rursus declaratio animi tui, quem haberes de re p. 2

again the-declaration of-the-mind your which you-had about the-thing public

quemque habiturus esses, mihi erat iucundissima; eoque

and-which going-to-have you-were to-me was most-delightful and-by-this

maior erat haec laetitia, quod ad illa superiora accedebat.

greater was this joy because to those earlier it-was-added

Itaque te non hortor solum, mi Plance, sed plane etiam oro,
And-so you not I-urge only my Plancus but outright also I-beg
quod feci iis litteris, quibus tu humanissime respondisti,
which I-did in-those letters to-which you most-kindly you-replied
ut tota mente omnique animi impetu in rem p.
that with-whole mind and-with-all of-spirit impulse into the-thing public
incumbas. Nihil est quod tibi maiori fructui gloriaeque
you-throw-yourself Nothing is-there which to-you for-greater profit and-glory
esse possit, nec quicquam ex omnibus rebus humanis est
to-be can nor anything of all things human is
praeclarius aut praestantius quam de re p. bene mereri.
more-splendid or more-excellent than of the-thing public well to-deserve
3 Adhuc enim (patitur tua summa humanitas et sapientia me
Still for allows your highest humanity and wisdom me
quod sentiam libere dicere) fortuna suffragante videris res
what I-feel freely to-say with-fortune voting(-for-you) you-seem things
maximas consecutus; quod quamquam sine virtute fieri
the-greatest attained which although without virtue to-be-done
non potuisset, tamen ex maxima parte ea quae es
not could-have still in the-greatest part those-things which you-have
adeptus fortunae temporibusque tribuuntur; his temporibus
won to-fortune and-to-the-times are-ascribed in-these times
difficillimis rei p. quicquid subveneris, id erit
most-difficult of-the-thing public whatever you-will-have-helped that will-be
totum et proprium tuum. Incredibile est omnium civium
wholly and properly yours Incredible is of-all citizens
latronibus exceptis odium in Antonium, magna spes in
with-the-brigands excepted the-hatred against Antony great hope in
te et in tuo exercitu, magna exspectatio; cuius, per deos!
you and in your army great expectation of-which by the-gods

gratiae gloriaeque cave tempus amittas. Sic moneo ut filium,
of-favor and-glory beware the-time you-lose So I-advise as a-son
sic faveo ut mihi, sic hortor ut et pro patria et amicissimum.
so I-favor as myself so I-urge as both for country and a-dearest-friend

X.6 · PEACE WITH BRIGANDS

Furnius' report of Plancus' loyalty pleased the senate, but his letter recommending peace did not, while his colleague is besieged by brigands, who must either lay down their arms or be beaten. Cicero, out of affection, warns him: all his honors will be empty names unless he joins the liberty of the Roman people and the authority of the senate, separating himself from those to whom the times, not his judgment, have tied him. A true consular is one who acts for the state, and peace lies not in arms laid down but in casting off the fear of arms and of slavery.

Cicero Planco.
Cicero to-Plancus
Quae locutus est Furnius noster de animo tuo in 1
What-things said has Furnius our about the-mind your toward
rem p., ea gratissima fuerunt senatui, p. R.
the-thing public those most-pleasing were to-the-senate to-the-people Roman
probatissima; quae autem tuae recitatae litterae sunt in senatu,
most-approved what however your read letter was in the-senate
nequaquam consentire cum Furni oratione visae sunt. Pacis
by-no-means to-agree with of-Furnius the-speech seemed were Of-peace
enim auctor eras, cum conlega tuus, vir clarissimus, a
for the-advocate you-were when colleague your a-man most-illustrious by
foedissimis latronibus obsideretur, qui aut positis armis
the-foulest brigands was-being-besieged who either with-laid-down arms
pacem petere debent aut, si pugnantes eam postulant, victoria
peace to-seek ought or if fighting it demand by-victory

pax non pactione parienda est. Sed de pace litterae vel
peace not by-bargain to-be-won is But about peace the-letters either
Lepidi vel tuae quam in partem acceptae sint, ex viro
of-Lepidus or your what in part taken they-were from the-man
optimo, fratre tuo, et ex C. Furnio poteris cognoscere.
excellent brother your and from Gaius Furnius you-will-be-able to-learn
2 Me autem impulit tui caritas ut, quamquam nec tibi
Me however drove for-you affection that although neither to-you
ipsi consilium deesset, et fratris Furnique benevolentia
yourself counsel was-lacking and of-your-brother and-of-Furnius goodwill
fidelisque prudentia tibi praesto esset futura, vellem tamen
and-faithful prudence to-you at-hand was going-to-be I-wished still
meae quoque auctoritatis pro plurimis nostris
of-my also authority in-accordance-with very-many our
necessitudinibus praeceptum ad te aliquod pervenire. Crede
ties a-precept to you some to-come Believe
igitur mihi, Plance, omnis, quos adhuc gradus dignitatis
therefore me Plancus all which yet steps of-rank
consecutus sis (es autem adeptus amplissimos), eos
attained you-have you-have however won most-splendid them
honorum vocabula habituros, non dignitatis insignia, nisi
of-honors names going-to-have not of-rank badges unless
te cum libertate populi R. et cum senatus
yourself with the-liberty of-the-people Roman and with of-the-senate
auctoritate coniunxeris. Seiunge te, quaeso, aliquando
authority you-will-have-joined Separate yourself I-beg at-last
ab iis, cum quibus te non tuum iudicium sed temporum
from those with whom you not your-own judgment but of-the-times
vincla coniunxerunt.
chains have-joined

Complures in perturbatione rei p. consules dicti, 3
Very-many in the-disturbance of-the-thing public consuls called
quorum nemo consularis habitus est, nisi qui animo exstitit
of-whom no-one a-consular held has-been except who in-spirit proved
in rem p. consularis. Talem igitur te esse oportet,
toward the-thing public a-consular Such therefore that-you to-be it-behooves
qui primum te ab impiorum civium tui dissimillimorum
who first yourself from of-impious citizens to-you most-unlike
societate seiungas, deinde te senatui bonisque omnibus
fellowship separate then yourself to-the-senate and-to-the-good all
auctorem, principem, ducem praebeas, postremo ut pacem
as-adviser leader general offer lastly that peace
esse iudices non in armis positis sed in abiecto armorum et
to-be you-judge not in arms laid-down but in cast-off of-arms and
servitutis metu. Haec si et ages et senties, tum eris
of-slavery fear These-things if both you-will-do and you-will-feel then you-will-be
non modo consul et consularis, sed magnus etiam consul
not only consul and consular but great also consul
et consularis; sin aliter, tum in istis amplissimis nominibus
and consular but-if otherwise then in those most-splendid names
honorum non modo dignitas nulla erit sed erit
of-honors not only dignity none there-will-be but there-will-be
summa deformitas. Haec impulsus benevolentia scripsi
the-utmost disfigurement These-things driven by-goodwill I-have-written
paulo severius; quae tu in experiendo ea ratione, quae te
a-little more-severely which you in trying in-that way which you
digna est, vera esse cognosces. D. xiii K. Apr.
worthy is true to-be you-will-find Dated thirteenth before-the-Kalends of-April

Plancus writes briefly, since his public letter tells all and his friend Marcus Varisidius, a Roman knight, will explain the rest. He has wanted Cicero to approve as well as love him. It pained him that others seemed to seize the praise, but he held back until he could do something worthy of his consulship and of their hopes; if fortune does not fail him, men will know that he was the republic's chief defense. He asks Cicero to support his dignity and to keep urging him on.

Plancus Ciceroni.

Plancus to-Cicero

1 Plura tibi de meis consiliis scriberem rationemque omnium
More to-you about my plans I-would-write and-account of-all
rerum redderem verbosius, quo magis iudicares omnia
things I-would-render more-wordily that more you-might-judge all-things
me rei p. praestitisse, quae et tua exhortatione
that-I to-the-thing public to-have-performed which both by-your exhortation
excepi et mea adfirmatione tibi recepi (non minus
I-undertook and by-my assurance to-you I-guaranteed not less
enim a te probari quam diligi semper volui,
for by you to-be-approved than to-be-loved always I-have-wished
nec te magis in culpa defensorem mihi paravi
nor you more in fault a-defender for-myself I-have-procured
quam praedicatorem meritorum meorum esse volui); sed
than the-herald of-the-merits my to-be I-have-wished but
breviorem me duae res faciunt, una, quod publicis litteris
briefer me two things make one that in-official letters
omnia sum persecutus, altera, quod M. Varisidium,
all-things I-have gone-through the-other that Marcus Varisidius
equitem R., familiarem meum, ipsum ad te transire
a-knight Roman friend my himself to you to-cross
iussi ex quo omnia cognoscere posses.
I-have-ordered from whom all-things to-learn you-could

Non medius fidius mediocri dolore adficiebar cum alii 2
Not so-help-me god-of-faith with-ordinary pain I-was-affected when others
occupare possessionem laudis viderentur, sed usque mihi
to-seize the-possession of-praise seemed but continually myself
temperavi dum perducerem eo rem, ut dignum
I-restrained until I-should-bring to-that-point the-matter that worthy
aliquid et consulatu meo et vestra exspectatione efficerem.
something both of-the-consulship my and your expectation I-might-achieve
Quod spero, si me fortuna non fefellerit, me consecuturum
Which I-hope if me fortune not will-have-deceived that-I going-to-attain
ut maximo praesidio rei p. nos fuisse et nunc
that as-the-greatest protection to-the-thing public that-we to-have-been both now
sentiant homines et in posterum memoria teneant. A
may-feel men and in future in-memory may-hold From
te peto ut dignitati meae suffrageris et, quarum rerum
you I-ask that dignity my you-support and of-which things
spe ad laudem me vocasti, harum fructu in reliquum
by-the-hope to praise me you-called of-these by-the-fruit for the-remainder
facias alacriorem. Non minus posse te quam velle
you-make more-eager Not less to-be-able that-you than to-be-willing
exploratum mihi est. Fac valeas meque mutuo diligas.
ascertained to-me is Make you-are-well and-me in-return you-love

Plancus explains to the magistrates, senate, and people why he has seemed slow to declare himself. Quick promises would have hampered him; he needed time, money, and labor to make his army loyal to the state rather than to one man's boundless promises, to win back the communities that last year's largesse had bound, and to draw in the neighboring commanders. He now has five loyal legions, a willing province, and strong cavalry, and he is ready to defend the province, march where the republic calls, or face the whole war himself, and he commends his loyal men to the senate.

Plancus imp. cos. desig. s. d. cos. pr. tr.
Plancus imperator consul elect greeting says to-the-consuls praetors tribunes
pl. senatui populo plebique Romanae.
of-the-plebs senate people and-commons Roman
1 Si cui forte videor diutius et hominum exspectationem
If to-anyone perhaps I-seem too-long both of-men the-expectation
et spem rei p. de mea voluntate tenuisse
and the-hope of-the-thing public about my intention to-have-held
suspensam, huic prius excusandum me esse arbitror quam
in-suspense to-him first to-be-excused that-I to-be I-think than
de insequenti officio quicquam ulli pollicendum; non
about the-following service anything to-anyone to-be-promised not
enim praeteritam culpam videri volo redemisse, sed optimae
for past fault to-seem I-wish to-have-redeemed but of-the-best
mentis cogitata iam pridem maturo tempore enuntiare.
mind thoughts now long-since at-a-ripe time to-declare
2 Non me praeteribat in tanta sollicitudine hominum et tam
Not me escaped in so-great anxiety of-men and so
perturbato statu civitatis fructuosissimam esse professionem
disturbed condition of-the-state most-profitable to-be the-profession
bonae voluntatis, magnosque honores ex ea re compluris
of-good will and-great honors from that thing very-many

consecutos videbam; sed cum in eum casum me fortuna
attained I-saw but since into that plight me fortune
demisisset, ut aut celeriter pollicendo magna mihi ipse ad
had-sunk that either quickly by-promising great for-me myself to
proficiendum impedimenta opponerem aut, si in eo mihi
succeeding obstacles I-should-put or if in that myself
temperavissem, maiores occasiones ad opitulandum haberem,
I-had-restrained greater opportunities for helping I-should-have
expeditius iter communis salutis quam meae laudis esse
clearer the-road of-common safety than of-my praise to-be
volui. Nam quis in ea fortuna quae mea est, et ab ea
I-wished For who in that fortune which mine is and from that
vita quam in me cognitam hominibus arbitror, et cum
life which in me known to-men I-think and with
ea spe quam in manibus habeo, aut sordidum quicquam
that hope which in hands I-have either mean anything
pati aut perniciosum concupiscere potest?
to-suffer or ruinous to-covet can
Sed aliquantum nobis temporis et magni labores et multae 3
But a-good-deal to-us of-time both great labors and many
impensae opus fuerunt ut, quae rei p. bonisque
expenses need were that what to-the-thing public and-to-the-good
omnibus polliceremur, exitu praestaremus neque ad
all we-promised by-the-outcome we-might-make-good nor to
auxilium patriae nudi cum bona voluntate sed cum facultatibus
the-aid of-country bare with good will but with resources
accederemus. Confirmandus erat exercitus nobis magnis saepe
we-might-come To-be-steadied was the-army by-us with-great often
praemiis sollicitatus, ut ab re p. potius moderata
rewards tempted that from the-thing public rather moderate-things
quam ab uno infinita speraret; confirmandae complures
than from one boundless-things it-might-hope to-be-steadied very-many

civitates, quae superiore anno largitionibus concessionibusque
states which in-the-previous year by-largesses and-grants
praemiorum erant obligatae, ut et illa vana putarent et
of-rewards had-been bound that both those empty they-might-think and
eadem a melioribus auctoribus petenda existimarent;
the-same-things from better sources to-be-sought they-might-judge
eliciendae etiam voluntates reliquorum, qui finitimis
to-be-drawn-out also the-wishes of-the-rest who neighboring
provinciis exercitibusque praefuerunt, ut potius cum pluribus
provinces and-armies commanded that rather with more
societatem defendendae libertatis iniremus quam cum
alliance of-defending liberty we-might-enter than with
paucioribus funestam orbi terrarum victoriam partiremur.
fewer deadly to-the-circle of-lands victory we-might-share
4 Muniendi vero nosmet ipsi fuimus aucto exercitu
To-be-fortified indeed we ourselves were with-increased army
auxiliisque multiplicatis ut, cum praeferremus sensus aperte,
and-auxiliaries with-multiplied that when we-displayed feelings openly
tum etiam invitis quibusdam sciri quid defensuri
then even with-unwilling certain-men to-be-known what going-to-defend
essemus non esset periculosum. Ita numquam diffitebor
we-were not might-be dangerous So never I-shall-deny
multa me, ut ad effectum horum consiliorum
many-things that-I that to the-accomplishment of-these plans
pervenirem, et simulasse invitum et dissimulasse cum
I-might-arrive both to-have-feigned unwilling and to-have-concealed with
dolore, quod praematura denuntiatio boni civis imparati
pain because premature declaration of-a-good citizen unprepared
quam periculosa esset ex casu conlegae videbam.
how dangerous was from the-plight of-my-colleague I-saw

Quo nomine etiam C. Furnio legato, viro forti atque 5
On-which account also to-Gaius Furnius legate a-man brave and
strenuo, plura etiam verbo quam scriptura mandata dedimus,
energetic more even by-word than by-writing instructions we-gave
ut et tectius ad vos perferrentur et nos essemus
that both more-secretly to you they-might-be-carried and we might-be
tutiores, quibusque rebus et communem salutem muniri
safer and-by-what means both the-common safety to-be-fortified
et nos armari conveniret praecepimus. Ex quo
and ourselves to-be-armed it-was-fitting we-instructed(-him) From which
intellegi potest curam rei p. summae defendendae
to-be-understood can the-care of-the-thing public supreme of-defending
iam pridem apud nos excubare.
now long-since with us to-keep-watch
Nunc cum deum benignitate ab omni re sumus paratiores, 6
Now since of-the-gods by-the-kindness in every thing we-are better-prepared
non solum bene sperare de nobis homines sed explorate
not only well to-hope of us men but certainly
iudicare volumus. Legiones habeo quinque sub signis
to-judge we-wish Legions I-have five under the-standards
et sua fide virtuteque rei p. coniunctissimas
and by-their-own loyalty and-courage to-the-thing public most-closely-bound
et nostra liberalitate nobis obsequentis, provinciam omnium
and by-our generosity to-us obedient a-province of-all
civitatium consensu paratissimam et summa contentione
the-states by-the-consent most-ready and with-the-utmost effort
ad officia certantem, equitatus auxiliorumque tantas copias
to duties vying of-cavalry and-of-auxiliaries such forces
quantas hae gentes ad defendendam suam salutem
as these peoples for defending their safety
libertatemque conficere possunt; ipse ita sum animo paratus,
and-liberty to-muster can myself so I-am in-mind prepared

ut vel provinciam tueri vel ire quo res p. vocet vel
that either the-province to-guard or to-go where the-thing public may-call or
tradere exercitum, auxilia provinciamque vel omnem impetum
to-hand-over army auxiliaries and-province or the-whole onset
belli in me convertere non recusem, si modo meo casu
of-war on myself to-turn not I-would-refuse if only by-my fall
aut confirmare patriae salutem aut periculum possim morari.
either to-secure of-country the-safety or danger I-can to-delay
7 Haec si iam expeditis omnibus rebus tranquilloque
These-things if now with-settled all things and-calm
statu civitatis polliceor, in damno meae laudis rei
condition of-the-state I-promise in the-loss of-my praise of-the-thing
p. commodo laetabor; sin ad societatem integerrimorum
public in-the-advantage I-shall-rejoice but-if to the-sharing of-the-freshest
et maximorum periculorum accedam, consilia mea aequis
and greatest dangers I-come plans my to-fair
iudicibus ab obtrectatione invidorum defendenda commendo.
judges from the-detraction of-the-envious to-be-defended I-commend
Mihi quidem ipsi fructus meritorum meorum in rei
To-me indeed myself the-fruit of-merits my in of-the-thing
p. incolumitate satis magnus est paratus; eos vero,
public safety enough great is prepared those indeed
qui meam auctoritatem et multo magis vestram fidem
who my leadership and much more your good-faith
secuti nec ulla spe decipi nec ullo metu terreri
followed neither by-any hope to-be-deceived nor by-any fear to-be-frightened
potuerunt, ut commendatos vobis habeatis petendum videtur.
could that commended to-you you-have to-be-asked it-seems

Plancus is glad he promised nothing rashly and let Cicero know his plans before others; his services will grow day by day. He wants no reward for his part in freeing the state unless his effort has stood out among the best citizens, and he leaves the time and measure of honors to Cicero. On the sixth before the Kalends of May he crossed the Rhone and sent a thousand horse ahead from Vienna; if Lepidus does not block him, he will make speed, and he brings forces strong in number, kind, and loyalty.

Plancus Ciceroni s.

Plancus to-Cicero greeting

Nihil me tibi temere aut te ceteris de me frustra 1

Nothing that-I to-you rashly or that-you to-the-rest about me in-vain

recepisse laetor; certe hoc maius habes testimonium

to-have-guaranteed I-rejoice certainly this greater you-have testimony

amoris mei, quo maturius tibi quam ceteris consilia mea

of-love my that earlier to-you than to-the-rest plans my

volui esse nota. In dies vero meritorum meorum fieri

I-wished to-be known Into days indeed of-merits my to-be-made

accessiones pervidere te spero, cogniturum magis recipio.

additions to-see-through that-you I-hope going-to-learn more I-guarantee

Quod ad me attinet, mi Cicero, (ita ab imminentibus 2

As to me pertains my Cicero so from impending

malis res p. me adiuvante liberetur!) sic

evils the-thing public with-me helping may-be-freed so-surely

honores praemiaque vestra suspicio conferenda certe

honors and-rewards your I-look-up-to to-be-compared certainly

cum immortalitate, ut sine iis nihil de meo studio

with immortality that without them nothing of my zeal

perseverantiaque sim remissurus. Nisi in multitudine

and-perseverance I-am going-to-relax Unless in the-multitude

optimorum civium impetus animi mei fuerit singularis
of-the-best citizens the-impulse of-mind my will-have-been singular
et opera praecipua, nihil ad meam dignitatem accedere
and service outstanding nothing to my dignity to-be-added
volo suffragatione vestra.
I-wish by-the-vote your
3 Concupisco autem nihil mihi (contra quod ipse pugno);
I-covet however nothing for-myself against which I-myself fight
et temporis et rei te moderatorem facile patior
both of-the-time and of-the-matter that-you the-regulator easily I-allow
esse. Nihil aut sero aut exigue a patria civi tributum
to-be Nothing either late or meagerly by country to-a-citizen bestowed
potest videri. Exercitum a. d. vi K. Maias
can to-seem The-army on-the day sixth before-the-Kalends of-May
Rhodanum traieci magnis itineribus, Vienna equites
the-Rhone I-took-across by-great marches from-Vienna horsemen
mille via breviore praemisi. Ipse si ab Lepido non
a-thousand by-a-road shorter I-sent-ahead Myself if by Lepidus not
impediar, celeritate satis faciam; si autem itineri meo
I-am-hindered by-speed enough I-shall-do if however to-the-march my
se opposierit, ad tempus consilium capiam. Copias
himself will-have-set-against to the-occasion plan I-shall-take Forces
adduco et numero et genere et fidelitate firmissimas. Te
I-bring both in-number and in-kind and in-loyalty most-steadfast You
ut diligas me, si mutuo te facturum scis, rogo. Vale.
that you-love me if in-return that-you going-to-do you-know I-ask Farewell

Furnius had told Cicero Plancus' intentions, but his letter made them clearer. Though the republic's fortune turns on one battle, the report of Plancus' loyalty has already won him praise, and with a consul in Rome the senate would have honored him; the time has not passed but is not yet ripe, since true honor is given to merit, not to hope of future service. Let the republic survive and he will have every honor; Cicero urges him to help his country and his colleague, promising himself as helper in all things.

Cicero Planco.

Cicero to-Plancus

Etsi satis ex Furnio nostro cognoram quae tua voluntas, 1
Although enough from Furnius our I-had-learned what your intention
quod consilium de re p. esset, tamen tuis litteris
what plan about the-thing public was still your letter
lectis liquidius de toto sensu tuo iudicavi. Quam
with-read more-clearly about the-whole feeling your I-judged Which
ob rem, quamquam in uno proelio omnis fortuna
on-account-of thing although in one battle the-whole fortune
rei p. disceptatur (quod quidem, cum haec legeres,
of-the-thing public is-decided which indeed when this you-read
iam decretum arbitrabar fore), tamen ipsa
already decided I-supposed to-be-going-to-be still by-the-very
fama, quae de tua voluntate percrebruit, magnam es
report which about your intention has-spread great you-have
laudem consecutus. Itaque si consulem Romae habuissemus,
praise attained And-so if a-consul at-Rome we-had-had
declaratum esset ab senatu cum tuis magnis honoribus
declared would-have-been by the-senate with your great honors
quam gratus esset conatus et apparatus tuus. Cuius rei non
how welcome was effort and preparation your Of-which thing not

modo non praeteriit tempus sed ne maturum quidem etiam
only not has-passed the-time but not ripe even even
nunc meo quidem iudicio fuit. Is enim denique honos
now in-my indeed judgment it-has-been That for finally honor
mihi videri solet, qui non propter spem futuri benefici
to-me to-seem is-wont which not on-account-of the-hope of-future service
sed propter magna merita claris viris defertur et datur.
but on-account-of great merits to-illustrious men is-conferred and given
2 Qua re, sit modo aliqua res p. in qua honos
By-which thing let-there-be only some thing public in which honor
elucere possit, omnibus, mihi crede, amplissimis honoribus
to-shine-forth can with-all me believe most-ample honors
abundabis. Is autem, qui vere appellari potest honos, non
you-will-abound That however which truly to-be-called can honor not
invitamentum ad tempus sed perpetuae virtutis est praemium.
an-inducement for the-moment but of-lasting virtue is the-reward
Quam ob rem, mi Plance, incumbe toto pectore ad
Which on-account-of thing my Plancus throw-yourself with-whole heart to
laudem, subveni patriae, opitulare conlegae, omnium gentium
praise help country aid your-colleague of-all nations
consensum et incredibilem conspirationem adiuva. Me
the-agreement and incredible unity support Me
tuorum consiliorum adiutorem, dignitatis fautorem, omnibus
of-your plans helper of-dignity supporter all
in rebus tibi amicissimum fidelissimumque cognosces. Ad
in things to-you most-friendly and-most-faithful you-will-find To
eas enim causas, quibus inter nos amore sumus, officiis,
those for causes by-which between us by-love we-are by-services
vetustate coniuncti, patriae caritas accessit, eaque effecit
by-long-standing joined of-country love has-been-added and-it has-made
ut tuam vitam anteferrem meae. iii K. Apr.
that your life I-would-prefer to-mine third before-the-Kalends of-April

Plancus thanks Cicero, who has acted as for a son. Crossing the Rhone and marching on Mutina, he heard that the battle had been fought and Brutus and Mutina freed. Antony's only refuge lies in Lepidus and Lepidus' army, part of which is as mad as Antony's men; so Plancus has halted among the Allobroges, ready for anything. If Antony comes bare, he can hold him; if with troops, and the Tenth rejoins him, he will still prevent harm until forces cross from Italy. He is trying to bring Lepidus over, through his brother, Laterensis, and Furnius.

Plancus Ciceroni.

Plancus to-Cicero

Immortalis ago tibi gratias agamque, dum vivam; nam 1
Immortal I-give to-you thanks and-I-will-give while I-live for
relaturum me adfirmare non possum. Tantis enim tuis
going-to-repay that-I to-affirm not I-can To-so-great for your
officiis non videor mi respondere posse, nisi forte, ut
services not I-seem to-me to-answer to-be-able unless perhaps as
tu gravissime disertissimeque scripsisti, ita sensurus es,
you most-weightily and-most-eloquently you-wrote so going-to-feel you-are
ut me referre gratiam putes, cum memoria tenebo. Si
that that-I to-repay gratitude you-think when in-memory I-shall-hold(-it) If
de fili tui dignitate esset actum, amabilius certe
about of-son your the-dignity there-had-been dealing more-lovingly certainly
nihil facere potuisses. Primae tuae sententiae infinitis cum
nothing to-do you-could-have First your motions boundless with
muneribus, posteriores ad tempus arbitriumque amicorum
gifts later to the-occasion and-judgment of-friends
meorum compositae, oratio adsidua et perpetua de me,
my adapted speech constant and unbroken about me
iurgia cum obtrectatoribus propter me notissima mihi
quarrels with detractors on-account-of me most-known to-me

sunt. Non mediocris adhibenda mihi est cura ut rei
are Not ordinary to-be-applied by-me is care that to-the-thing
p. me civem dignum tuis laudibus praestem, in amicitia
public myself a-citizen worthy of-your praises I-show in friendship
tua memorem atque gratum. Quod reliquum est, tuum
your mindful and grateful As-for-what remains is your
munus tuere et me, si quem esse voluisti eum exitu
gift protect and me if such-as to-be you-wished that by-outcome
rebusque cognoscis, defende ac suscipe.
and-deeds you-recognize defend and take-up

2 Cum Rhodanum copias omnis traiecissem fratremque
When the-Rhone forces all I-had-taken-across and-my-brother
cum tribus milibus equitum praemisissem, ipse iter ad
with three thousand horsemen had-sent-ahead myself the-march to
Mutinam dirigerem, in itinere de proelio facto Brutoque et
Mutina was-directing on the-march about the-battle fought and-Brutus and
Mutina obsidione liberatis audivi. Animadverti nullum alium
Mutina from-siege freed I-heard I-perceived no other
receptum Antonium reliquiasque, quae cum eo essent, habere
retreat that-Antony and-the-remnants which with him were to-have
nisi in his partibus, duasque ei spes esse propositas,
except in these parts and-two to-him hopes to-be held-out
unam Lepidi ipsius, alteram exercitus. Quod quaedam
one of-Lepidus himself the-other of-the-army Because a-certain
pars exercitus non minus furiosa est quam qui cum
part of-the-army not less mad is than those-who with
Antonio fuerunt, equitatum revocavi; ipse in Allobrogibus
Antony were the-cavalry I-recalled myself among the-Allobroges
constiti, ut proinde ad omnia paratus essem ac res
I-halted that accordingly for all-things prepared I-might-be as circumstances
me moneret. Si nudus hoc se Antonius confert, facile
me might-warn If bare hither himself Antony betakes easily

mi videor per me sustinere posse remque publicam
to-me I-seem by myself to-hold(-him)-off to-be-able and-the-thing public
ex vestra sententia administrare, quamvis ab exercitu
according-to your judgment to-administer however-much by the-army
Lepidi recipiatur; si vero copiarum aliquid secum adducet
of-Lepidus he-be-received if indeed of-forces some with-him he-will-bring
et si decima legio veterana, quae nostra opera revocata
and if the-tenth legion veteran which by-our efforts recalled
cum reliquis est, ad eundem furorem redierit, tamen
with the-rest is to the-same madness will-have-returned still
ne quid detrimenti fiat dabitur opera a me, idque
lest any of-harm be-done will-be-given effort by me and-that
me praestaturum spero, dum istinc copiae traiciantur
that-I going-to-make-good I-hope until from-there forces be-brought-across
coniunctaeque nobiscum facilius perditos opprimant.
and-joined with-us more-easily the-desperate may-crush
Hoc tibi spondeo, mi Cicero, neque animum nec diligentiam 3
This to-you I-pledge my Cicero neither spirit nor diligence
mihi defuturam. Cupio me hercules nullam residuam
to-me going-to-be-lacking I-desire so-help-me Hercules no remaining
sollicitudinem esse; sed si fuerit, nec animo nec
anxiety to-be but if there-will-be neither to-the-spirit nor
benevolentiae nec patientiae cuiusquam pro vobis cedam.
to-the-goodwill nor to-the-endurance of-anyone for you I-shall-yield
Do quidem ego operam ut etiam Lepidum ad huius
I-give indeed I effort that even Lepidus to of-this
rei societatem incitem, omniaque ei obsequia polliceor,
enterprise partnership I-may-rouse and-all to-him deferences I-promise
si modo rem p. respicere volet. Utor in hac re
if only the-thing public to-regard he-will-wish I-use in this matter
adiutoribus interpretibusque fratre meo et Laterense et
as-helpers and-go-betweens brother my and Laterensis and

Furnio nostro. Non me impedient privatae offensiones quo
Furnius our Not me will-hinder private offenses whereby
minus pro rei p. salute etiam cum inimicissimo
less for of-the-thing public the-safety even with the-bitterest-enemy
consentiam. Quod si nihil profecero, nihilo minus
I-agree But if nothing I-shall-have-achieved by-nothing less
maximo cum animo et maiore fortasse cum mea gloria
the-greatest with spirit and greater perhaps with my glory
vobis satis faciam. Fac valeas meque mutuo diligas.
to-you enough I-shall-do Make you-are-well and-me in-return you-love

X.12 · PLANCUS' LETTER IN THE SENATE

Cicero rejoices in Plancus' service at the eleventh hour and in the glory it brings him. No letter ever read in the senate was more welcome; even those who never doubted him had not known how far he would go. Varisidius brought it on the seventh before the Ides of April, and Munatius read it too. Cornutus convened the senate, but a scruple about the auspices put the matter off; at the next sitting Servilius and the tribune Titius blocked Cicero's motion, and then Cicero overcame them both, with the whole city behind Plancus. Cicero urges him on to true glory.

Cicero Planco.
Cicero to-Plancus

1 Etsi rei p. causa maxime gaudere debeo tantum
Although of-the-thing public for-the-sake most to-rejoice I-ought such
ei te praesidi, tantum opis attulisse extremis paene
to-it that-you of-protection such of-help to-have-brought at-the-last almost
temporibus, tamen ita te victorem complectar re p.
moments still so you victor I-shall-embrace with-the-thing public
reciperata, ut magnam partem mihi laetitiae tua dignitas
recovered that a-great part to-me of-joy your dignity

adfert, quam et esse iam et futuram amplissimam intellego.
brings which both to-be already and going-to-be most-ample I-understand
Cave enim putes ullis umquam litteras gratiores quam tuas
Beware for you-think to-any ever a-letter more-welcome than yours
in senatu esse recitatas; idque contigit cum meritorum
in the-senate to-have-been read and-that happened both of-merits
tuorum in rem p. eximia quadam magnitudine
your toward the-thing public by-an-exceptional certain greatness
tum verborum sententiarumque gravitate. Quod mihi quidem
and of-words and-of-sentiments by-the-weight Which to-me indeed
minime novum, qui et te nossem et tuarum litterarum ad
least new who both you knew and of-your letters to
me missarum promissa meminissem et haberem a Furnio
me sent the-promises remembered and had from Furnius
nostro tua penitus consilia cognita, sed senatui maiora
our your thoroughly plans known but to-the-senate greater
visa sunt quam erant exspectata, non quo umquam
seemed they-have than they-were expected not because ever
de tua voluntate dubitasset, sed nec quantum facere
about your intention it-had-doubted but neither how-much to-do
posses nec quo progredi velles exploratum satis habebat.
you-could nor how-far to-advance you-wished ascertained enough it-held
Itaque cum a. d. vii Idus Aprilis mane mihi 2
And-so when on-the day seventh before-the-Ides of-April in-the-morning to-me
tuas litteras M. Varisidius reddidisset easque legissem,
your letter Marcus Varisidius had-delivered and-it I-had-read
incredibili gaudio sum elatus; cumque magna multitudo
with-incredible joy I-was carried-away and-when a-great crowd
optimorum virorum et civium me domo deduceret, feci
of-the-best men and citizens me from-home was-escorting I-made
continuo omnis participes meae voluptatis. Interim ad me
at-once all sharers of-my delight Meanwhile to me

venit Munatius noster, ut consuerat. At ego ei
came Munatius our as he-had-been-accustomed And I to-him
litteras tuas, nihildum enim sciebat; nam ad me primum
letter your nothing-yet for he-knew for to me first
Varisidius, idque sibi a te mandatum esse dicebat.
Varisidius and-that to-himself by you ordered to-have-been he-said
Paulo post idem mihi Munatius eas litteras legendas dedit
A-little after the-same to-me Munatius the letter to-be-read gave
quas ipsi miseras, et eas quas publice.
which to-him you-had-sent and that which officially

3 Placuit nobis ut statim ad Cornutum, pr. urb.,
It-was-decided by-us that at-once to Cornutus praetor of-the-city
litteras deferremus, qui, quod consules aberant, consulare
the-letter we-should-carry who because the-consuls were-away consular
munus sustinebat more maiorum. Senatus est continuo
office was-holding by-the-custom of-our-ancestors The-senate was at-once
convocatus frequensque convenit propter famam atque
convened and-in-numbers it-assembled on-account-of the-report and
exspectationem tuarum litterarum. Recitatis litteris oblata
expectation of-your letter With-read the-letter presented
religio Cornuto est pullariorum admonitu non satis
a-scruple to-Cornutus was of-the-chicken-keepers at-the-warning not enough
diligenter eum auspiciis operam dedisse, idque a nostro
carefully that-he to-the-auspices attention to-have-given and-that by our
conlegio comprobatum est. Itaque res dilata est in
college confirmed was And-so the-matter postponed was to
posterum. Eo autem die magna mihi pro tua dignitate
the-next(-day) On-that however day great to-me on-behalf-of your dignity
contentio cum Servilio; qui cum gratia effecisset ut
contest with Servilius who when by-influence had-brought-about that
sua sententia prima pronuntiaretur, frequens eum senatus
his motion first was-put a-full him senate

reliquit et in alia omnia discessit, meaeque sententiae,
left and to other all-things went and-my motion
quae secunda pronuntiata erat, cum frequenter adsentiretur
which second put had-been when in-numbers was-assenting
senatus, rogatu Servili P. Titius intercessit. Res
the-senate at-the-request of-Servilius Publius Titius vetoed The-matter
in posterum dilata.
to the-next(-day) postponed

Venit paratus Servilius Iovi ipsi iniquus, cuius in 4
Came prepared Servilius to-Jupiter himself hostile whose in
templo res agebatur. Hunc quem ad modum fregerim
temple the-business was-transacted Him in-what to manner I-broke
quantaque contentione Titium intercessorem abiecerim,
and-with-how-great effort Titius the-vetoer I-threw-down
ex aliorum te litteris malo cognoscere; unum hoc ex
from of-others you letters I-prefer to-learn one this from
meis: Senatus gravior, constantior, amicior tuis laudibus
mine The-senate more-weighty more-steadfast more-friendly to-your praises
esse non potuit quam tum fuit, nec vero tibi senatus
to-be not could than then it-was nor indeed to-you the-senate
amicior quam cuncta civitas; mirabiliter enim populus
more-friendly than the-whole state wonderfully for the-people
R. universus et omnium generum ordinumque consensus
Roman whole and of-all kinds and-orders the-agreement
ad liberandam rem p. conspiravit.
to freeing the-thing public united

Perge igitur, ut agis, nomenque tuum commenda 5
Go-on therefore as you-are-doing and-name your commend
immortalitati atque haec omnia, quae habent speciem
to-immortality and these all which have the-appearance
gloriae conlectam inanissimis splendoris insignibus, contemne,
of-glory gathered from-the-emptiest of-splendor badges despise

brevia, fucata, caduca existima. Verum decus in virtute
short painted perishable consider(-them) True honor in virtue
positum est, quae maxime inlustratur magnis in rem
placed is which most is-made-illustrious by-great toward the-thing
p. meritis. Eam facultatem habes maximam. Quam
public services That opportunity you-have greatest Which
quoniam complexus es et tenes, perfice ut ne minus
since embraced you-have and hold bring-it-about that not less
res p. tibi quam tu rei p. debeas. Me tuae
the-thing public to-you than you to-the-thing public owe Me of-your
dignitatis non modo fautorem sed etiam amplificatorem
dignity not only supporter but also enlarger
cognosces. Id cum rei p., quae mihi vita est
you-will-find That both to-the-thing public which to-me than-life is
mea carior, tum nostrae necessitudini debere me iudico.
my dearer and to-our connection to-owe that-I I-judge
Atque in his curis, quas contuli ad dignitatem tuam, cepi
And in these cares which I-devoted to dignity your I-took
magnam voluptatem, quod bene cognitam mihi T. Munati
great pleasure because well known to-me Titus of-Munatius
prudentiam et fidem magis etiam perspexi in eius incredibili
prudence and loyalty more even I-perceived in his incredible
erga te benevolentia et diligentia. iii Idus Apr.
toward you goodwill and diligence third before-the-Ides of-April

Cicero has let no chance pass to honor Plancus, as the decree, written from his own motion and passed with great enthusiasm, will show. Though he knows Plancus prefers the good opinion of honest men to the trappings of glory, Cicero thought the state should consider what it owes him. Plancus must now join the end to the beginning: whoever crushes Antony will have finished the war, and Homer called not Ajax or Achilles but Ulysses the sacker of cities.

Cicero Planco.

Cicero to-Plancus

Ut primum potestas data est augendae dignitatis tuae, 1
As first power given was of-increasing dignity your
nihil praetermisi in te ornando, quod positum esset aut
nothing I-passed-over in you honoring which placed was either
in praemio virtutis aut in honore verborum. Id ex ipso
in the-reward of-virtue or in the-honor of-words That from the-very
s. c. poteris cognoscere; ita enim est perscriptum,
of-the-senate decree you-will-be-able to-learn so for it-is written-out
ut a me de scripto dicta sententia est; quam senatus
as by me from writing delivered motion was which the-senate
frequens secutus est summo studio magnoque consensu.
full followed has with-highest zeal and-great agreement
Ego quamquam ex tuis litteris, quas mihi misisti, perspexeram 2
I although from your letter which to-me you-sent I-had-perceived
te magis iudicio bonorum quam insignibus gloriae
that-you more by-the-judgment of-the-good than by-the-badges of-glory
delectari, tamen considerandum nobis existimavi, etiam si
to-be-delighted still to-be-considered by-us I-thought even if
tu nihil postulares, quantum tibi a re p. deberetur.
you nothing demanded how-much to-you by the-thing public was-owed
Tu contexes extrema cum primis. Qui enim M. Antonium
You will-join the-last with the-first Who for Mark Antony

oppresserit, is bellum confecerit; itaque Homerus non
will-have-crushed he the-war will-have-finished and-so Homer not
Aiacem nec Achillem sed Ulixem appellavit πτολιπόρθιον.
Ajax nor Achilles but Ulysses called sacker-of-cities

X.14 · THE LAST SPARKS

Two days before the victory came the welcome news of Plancus' help, zeal, and speed. Though the enemy is routed, all hope now rests on him, since the chief brigands are said to have escaped from Mutina, and destroying the remnant is as welcome as repelling the first attack. Cicero awaits his letter and hopes that Lepidus, warned by the crisis, will act with him and the republic; Plancus must see that no spark of this foulest war is left.

Cicero Planco s.
Cicero to-Plancus greeting

1 O gratam famam biduo ante victoriam de subsidio tuo, de
O welcome report two-days before the-victory about help your about
studio, de celeritate, de copiis! Atque etiam hostibus
zeal about speed about forces And even with-the-enemy
fusis spes omnis est in te; fugisse enim ex proelio
routed hope all is in you to-have-fled for from the-battle
Mutinensi dicuntur notissimi latronum duces; est autem
of-Mutina are-said the-most-notorious of-brigands leaders it-is however
non minus gratum extrema delere quam prima depellere.
not less pleasing the-last to-destroy than the-first to-drive-off

2 Equidem exspectabam iam tuas litteras, idque cum multis,
For-my-part I-was-expecting now your letter and-that with many
sperabamque etiam Lepidum rei p. temporibus
and-I-was-hoping also that-Lepidus of-the-thing public by-the-crises
admonitum tecum et cum re p. esse facturum. In
warned with-you and with the-thing public to-be going-to-act Into

illam igitur curam incumbe, mi Plance, ut ne quae scintilla
that therefore care throw-yourself my Plancus that not any spark
teterrimi belli relinquatur. Quod si erit factum, et
of-the-foulest war be-left But if it-will-be done both
rem publicam divino beneficio adfeceris et ipse
the-thing public with-divine benefit you-will-have-endowed and yourself
aeternam gloriam consequere. D. iii Non. Mai.
eternal glory you-will-attain Dated third before-the-Nones of-May

X.15 · MARCHING TO JOIN LEPIDUS

Plancus reports that by constant messages he has persuaded Lepidus to drop their rivalry and help the republic, valuing his children and the city above one ruined brigand. Through Laterensis Lepidus has pledged to fight Antony if he cannot keep him out of his province and has asked Plancus to join him, since Antony is strong in cavalry and Lepidus weak. Plancus bridged the Isère and crossed on the fourth before the Ides of May; his brother has gone ahead with cavalry, and he follows with four light legions. If Antony turns back to Italy, Brutus must meet him.

Plancus Ciceroni.
Plancus to-Cicero
His litteris scriptis, quae postea accidissent scire te 1
With-these letters written what-things afterward had-happened to-know that-you
ad rem p. putavi pertinere. Sedulitas mea, ut spero, et
to the-thing public I-thought to-pertain Diligence my as I-hope both
mihi et rei p. tulit fructum. Namque adsiduis
to-me and to-the-thing public has-brought fruit For by-constant
internuntiis cum Lepido egi ut omissa omni contentione
go-betweens with Lepidus I-dealt that with-dropped all rivalry
reconciliataque voluntate nostra communi consilio rei p.
and-with-reconciled will our by-common counsel to-the-thing public

succurreret, se, liberos urbemque pluris quam
he-should-come-to-the-aid himself children and-city of-more-account than
unum perditum abiectumque latronem putaret obsequioque
one ruined and-cast-off brigand he-should-hold and-compliance
meo, si ita faceret, ad omnis res abuteretur. Profeci.
my if so he-did for all things he-should-make-full-use-of I-succeeded
2 Itaque per Laterensem internuntium fidem mihi dedit
And-so through Laterensis as-go-between pledge to-me he-gave
se Antonium, si prohibere provincia sua non potuisset,
that-he Antony if to-keep-out from-province his-own not he-had-been-able
bello persecuturum, me ut venirem copiasque coniungerem
in-war going-to-pursue me that I-should-come and-forces join
rogavit, eoque magis, quod et Antonius ab equitatu
he-asked and-by-that more because both Antony in cavalry
firmus esse dicebatur et Lepidus ne mediocrem quidem
strong to-be was-said and Lepidus not moderate even
equitatum habebat; nam etiam ex paucitate eius non
cavalry had for even out-of the-fewness his not
multis ante diebus decem qui optimi fuerant ad me
many before days ten who the-best had-been to me
transierunt. Quibus rebus ego cognitis cunctatus non sum;
crossed With-which things I learned hesitated not I-have
in cursu bonorum consiliorum Lepidum adiuvandum putavi.
in the-course of-good counsels Lepidus to-be-helped I-thought
3 Adventus meus quid profecturus esset vidi, vel quod
Arrival my what going-to-accomplish was I-saw either because
equitatu meo persequi atque opprimere equitatum eius
with-cavalry my to-pursue and to-crush the-cavalry his
possem, vel quod exercitus Lepidi eam partem, quae corrupta
I-could or because of-the-army of-Lepidus that part which corrupted
est et ab re p. alienata, et corrigere et coercere
has-been and from the-thing public estranged both to-correct and to-restrain

praesentia mei exercitus possem. Itaque in Isara, flumine
by-the-presence of-my army I-could And-so on the-Isère river
maximo, quod in finibus est Allobrogum, ponte uno die
very-great which in the-territory is of-the-Allobroges with-a-bridge in-one day
facto exercitum a. d. iiii Idus Mai. traduxi. Cum
built the-army on-the day fourth before-the-Ides of-May I-took-across When
vero mihi nuntiatum esset L. Antonium praemissum
indeed to-me reported it-had-been that-Lucius Antonius sent-ahead
cum equitibus et cohortibus ad Forum Iuli venisse,
with horsemen and cohorts to Forum of-Julius to-have-come
fratrem cum equitum quattuor milibus ut occurreret ei
my-brother with of-horsemen four thousand that he-might-meet him
misi a. d. iii Idus Mai.; ipse maximis itineribus
I-sent on-the day third before-the-Ides of-May myself by-the-greatest marches
cum iiii legionibus expeditis et reliquo equitatu subsequar.
with four legions light-armed and the-remaining cavalry will-follow
Si nos mediocris modo fortuna rei p. adiuverit, 4
If us ordinary only fortune of-the-thing public will-have-helped
et audaciae perditorum et nostrae sollicitudinis hic
both of-the-audacity of-the-desperate and of-our anxiety here
finem reperiemus. Quod si latro praecognito nostro
an-end we-shall-find But if the-brigand with-foreknown our
adventu rursus in Italiam se recipere coeperit, Bruti
arrival again into Italy himself to-withdraw will-have-begun of-Brutus
erit officium occurrere ei; cui scio nec consilium
it-will-be the-duty to-meet him to-whom I-know neither counsel
nec animum defuturum. Ego tamen, si id acciderit,
nor spirit going-to-be-lacking I still if that will-have-happened
fratrem cum equitatu mittam qui sequatur Italiamque a
my-brother with cavalry I-will-send who is-to-follow and-Italy from
vastatione defendat. Fac valeas meque mutuo diligas.
devastation defend Make you-are-well and-me in-return you-love

Nothing more glorious or more timely has happened than the arrival of Plancus' letter, read to a full senate after a cold and shifty one from Lepidus, and greeted with shouts. When Cornutus wished to deliberate, five tribunes brought the matter forward, Servilius put it off, and Cicero's motion was carried unanimously. Plancus needs no advice; he should be his own senate, follow the republic's interest wherever it leads, and act first, since whatever he does the senate will approve as both loyal and wise.

Cicero Planco.

Cicero to-Plancus

1 Nihil post hominum memoriam gloriosius, nihil gratius,
Nothing after of-men the-memory more-glorious nothing more-pleasing
ne tempore quidem ipso opportunius accidere vidi quam
not in-time even itself more-timely to-happen I-have-seen than
tuas, Plance, litteras. Redditae sunt enim frequenti senatu
your Plancus letter Delivered it-was for with-a-full senate
Cornuto, cum is frigidas sane et inconstantis recitasset
to-Cornutus when he cold truly and inconsistent had-read
litteras Lepidi. Sub eas statim recitatae sunt tuae
the-letter of-Lepidus Immediately-after it at-once read was yours
non sine magnis quidem clamoribus. Cum rebus enim
not without great indeed shouts Both in-substance for
ipsis essent et studiis beneficiisque in rem p.
itself it-was and in-zeal and-services toward the-thing public
gratissimae, tum erant gravissimis verbis ac sententiis.
most-welcome and it-was in-most-weighty words and sentiments
Flagitare senatus institit Cornutum ut referret
To-demand the-senate pressed Cornutus that he-should-bring(-it)-forward
statim de tuis litteris. Ille se considerare velle. Cum
at-once about your letter He that-he to-consider to-wish When

ei magnum convicium fieret cuncto a senatu, quinque
on-him great outcry was-made the-whole by senate five
tribuni plebi rettulerunt. Servilius rogatus rem
tribunes of-the-plebs brought-it-forward Servilius asked the-matter
distulit; ego eam sententiam dixi, cui sunt adsensi
put-off I that motion delivered to-which they-have assented
ad unum. Ea quae fuerit ex s. c. cognosces.
to one That which was from of-the-senate decree you-will-learn
Tu quamquam consilio non eges vel abundas potius, tamen 2
You although counsel not you-need or you-abound rather still
hoc animo esse debes, ut nihil huc reicias neve in rebus
of-this mind to-be you-ought that nothing hither you-refer nor in matters
tam subitis tamque angustis a senatu consilium petendum
so sudden and-so narrow from the-senate counsel to-be-sought
putes, ipse tibi sis senatus, quocumque te ratio
you-think yourself to-yourself you-be the-senate wherever you the-interest
rei p. ducet sequare, cures ut ante factum aliquid
of-the-thing public will-lead you-follow you-take-care that before done something
a te egregium audiamus, quam futurum putarimus. Illud tibi
by you outstanding we-hear than going-to-be we-had-thought This to-you
promitto, quicquid erit a te factum, id senatum non modo
I-promise whatever will-be by you done that that-the-senate not only
ut fideliter sed etiam ut sapienter factum comprobaturum.
as faithfully but also as wisely done going-to-approve

Antony reached Forum Iulii on the Ides of May with his first troops; Ventidius is two days behind, and Lepidus, encamped at Forum Voconii, twenty-four miles off, has said he will wait for Plancus. Plancus' brother, worn out and ill, was ready to face every danger, but Plancus forced him to go to Rome, where the state, stripped of its consuls, needs him as praetor. Lepidus has sent Apella as a hostage for his good faith, and Lucius Gellius has proved his zeal as a go-between; Plancus asks Cicero to protect his standing.

Plancus Ciceroni.

Plancus to-Cicero

1 Antonius Id. Mai. ad Forum Iuli cum primis copiis
Antony on-the-Ides of-May to Forum of-Julius with the-first forces
venit. Ventidius bidui spatio abest ab eo. Lepidus
came Ventidius of-two-days by-the-space is-distant from him Lepidus
ad Forum Voconi castra habet, qui locus a Foro Iuli
at Forum of-Voconius camp has which place from Forum of-Julius
quattuor et viginti millia passus abest, ibique me exspectare
four and twenty thousand paces is-distant and-there me to-wait-for
constituit, quem ad modum ipse mihi scripsit. Quod si
he-has-decided in-what to manner he-himself to-me wrote But if
omnia mihi integra et ipse et fortuna servarit, recipio
all-things for-me intact both he-himself and fortune will-have-kept I-guarantee
vobis celeriter me negotium ex sententia confecturum.
to-you quickly that-I the-business according-to wish going-to-finish

2 Fratrem meum adsiduis laboribus concursationibusque
That-brother my by-constant labors and-runnings-about
confectum graviter se habuisse antea tibi scripsi. Sed tamen
worn-out seriously himself to-have-been before to-you I-wrote But still
cum primum posse ingredi coepit, non magis sibi quam
when first to-be-able to-walk he-began not more for-himself than

rei p. se convaluisse existimans ad omnia pericula
for-the-thing public that-he to-have-recovered thinking to all dangers
princeps esse non recusabat. Sed ego eum non solum hortatus
first to-be not he-was-refusing But I him not only urged
sum verum etiam coegi isto proficisci, quod et illa valetudine
I-have but also forced there to-set-out because both by-that health
magis conficere se quam me iuvare posset in castris, et
more to-wear-out himself than me to-help he-could in camp and
quod acerbissimo interitu consulum rem p. nudatam tali
because by-the-most-bitter death of-the-consuls the-thing public stripped such
cive praetore in urbanis officiis indigere existimabam. Quod
a-citizen praetor in urban duties to-need I-thought But
si qui vestrum non probabit, mihi prudentiam in consilio
if any of-you not will-approve to-me prudence in counsel
defuisse sciat, non illi erga patriam fidelitatem.
to-have-been-lacking let-him-know not to-that-man toward country loyalty
Lepidus tamen, quod ego desiderabam, fecit ut Apellam ad 3
Lepidus still what I was-wanting did that Apella to
me mitteret, quo obside fidei illius et societatis in
me he-sent whom as-hostage of-the-faith his and of-the-partnership in
re p. administranda uterer. In ea re studium mihi
the-thing public administering I-might-use In that matter zeal to-me
suum L. Gellius de tribus fratribus Segaviano probavit,
his Lucius Gellius of three brothers through-Segavianus proved
quo ego interprete novissime ad Lepidum sum usus. Amicum
whom I as-go-between most-recently with Lepidus I-have used A-friend
eum rei p. cognosse videor libenterque ei sum
him to-the-thing public to-have-recognized I-seem and-gladly to-him I-am
testimonio et omnibus ero qui bene merentur. Fac
as-witness and to-all I-shall-be who well deserve Make

valeas meque mutuo diligas dignitatemque meam, si mereor,
you-are-well and-me in-return you-love and-dignity my if I-deserve
tuearis, sicut adhuc singulari cum benevolentia fecisti.
you-protect as so-far singular with goodwill you-have-done

X.18 · THE RISK TAKEN

Plancus explains that he chose the dangerous course over the safe one. When Lepidus and Laterensis begged him to come, fearing the fickleness of Lepidus' army, he saw that if he waited at the Isère for Brutus and Lepidus came to harm, it would be blamed on his obstinacy or fear, so he resolved to go and steady that army with his presence, though he dreads hidden disloyalty in it. Had he met Antony first, Antony would not have held out an hour. On the fifteenth before the Kalends of June he left the Isère, its bridge held by two forts for Brutus, to join Lepidus within eight days.

Plancus Ciceroni.
Plancus to-Cicero

1 Quid in animo habuerim, cum Laevus Nervaque discesserunt
What in mind I-had when Laevus and-Nerva departed
a me, et ex litteris, quas eis dedi, et ex ipsis
from me both from the-letter which to-them I-gave and from themselves
cognoscere potuisti, qui omnibus rebus consiliisque meis
to-learn you-have-been-able who in-all affairs and-plans my
interfuerunt. Accidit mihi, quod homini pudenti et cupido
took-part It-befell me what to-a-man scrupulous and eager
satis faciendi rei p. bonisque omnibus accidere
enough of-doing to-the-thing public and-to-the-good all to-befall
solet, ut consilium sequerer periculosum magis, dum me
is-wont that a-plan I-followed dangerous rather so-long-as myself
probarem, quam tutum, quod habere posset obtrectationem.
I-approved than safe which to-have might detraction

Itaque post discessum legatorum cum binis continuis litteris 2
And-so after the-departure of-the-envoys when by-two successive letters
et Lepidus me ut venirem rogaret, et Laterensis multo
both Lepidus me that I-should-come asked and Laterensis much
etiam magis prope implorans obtestaretur non ullam rem
even more almost imploring besought not any thing
aliam extimescens quam eandem, quae mihi quoque facit
other fearing than the-same which to-me also causes
timorem, varietatem atque infidelitatem exercitus eius, non
fear the-fickleness and faithlessness of-the-army his not
dubitandum putavi quin succurrerem meque communi
to-be-doubted I-thought but-that I-should-come-to-help and-myself to-the-common
periculo offerrem. Sciebam enim, etsi cautius illud erat
danger offer I-knew for although more-cautious that was
consilium exspectare me ad Isaram dum Brutus traiceret
plan to-wait myself at the-Isère until Brutus should-bring-across
exercitum, et cum conlega consentiente, exercitu concordi
his-army and with my-colleague agreeing with-the-army harmonious
ac bene de re p. sentiente, sicut milites faciunt,
and well toward the-thing public feeling as the-soldiers do
hostibus obviam ire, tamen, si quid Lepidus bene sentiens
the-enemy to-meet to-go still if any Lepidus well feeling
detrimenti cepisset, hoc omne adsignatum iri aut
of-harm had-suffered this all ascribed to-be-going-to-be either
pertinaciae meae aut timori videbam, si aut hominem
to-obstinacy my or to-fear I-saw if either a-man
offensum mihi, coniunctum cum re p. non sublevassem
offended with-me joined with the-thing public not I-had-relieved
aut ipse a certamine belli tam necessari me removissem.
or myself from the-contest of-war so necessary myself had-withdrawn

3 Itaque potius periclitari volui, si possem mea praesentia
And-so rather to-take-the-risk I-wished if I-could by-my presence
et Lepidum tueri et exercitum facere meliorem quam
both Lepidus to-protect and the-army to-make better than
nimis cautus videri. Sollicitiorem certe hominem non suis
too cautious to-seem More-anxious certainly a-man not his-own
contractis neminem puto fuisse. Nam quae res nullam
contracted(-troubles) no-one I-think to-have-been For what thing no
habebat dubitationem, si exercitus Lepidi absit, ea nunc
had doubt if the-army of-Lepidus be-away that now
magnam adfert sollicitudinem magnumque habet casum.
great brings anxiety and-great has risk
Mihi enim si contigisset ut prior occurrerem Antonio,
To-me for if it-had-befallen that first I-met Antony
non me hercules horam constitisset; tantum ego et
not so-help-me Hercules an-hour he-would-have-stood so-much I both
mihi confido et sic perculsas illius copias Ventidique
in-myself trust and so shaken his forces and-of-Ventidius
mulionis castra despicio; sed non possum non exhorrescere,
the-muleteer camp I-despise but not I-can not to-shudder
si quid intra cutem subest vulneris, quod prius nocere
if any within the-skin lies of-wound which before to-harm
potest quam sciri curarique possit. Sed certe, nisi
can than to-be-known and-to-be-treated it-can But certainly unless
uno loco me tenerem, magnum periculum ipse Lepidus,
in-one place myself I-held great danger himself Lepidus
magnum ea pars exercitus adiret, quae bene de re
great that part of-the-army would-incur which well toward the-thing
p. sentit. Magnam etiam perditi hostes accessionem
public feels Great also the-desperate enemies addition
sibi fecissent, si quas copias a Lepido abstraxissent.
to-themselves would-have-made if any forces from Lepidus they-had-drawn-off

Quae si adventus meus represserit, agam gratias fortunae
Which if arrival my will-have-checked I-shall-give thanks to-fortune
constantiaeque meae, quae me ad hanc experientiam excitavit.
and-to-the-constancy my which me to this venture roused
Itaque a. d. xv K. Iun. ab Isara castra 4
And-so on-the day fifteenth before-the-Kalends of-June from the-Isère camp
movi; pontem tamen, quem in Isara feceram, castellis
I-moved the-bridge still which on the-Isère I-had-made with-forts
duobus ad capita positis reliqui praesidiaque ibi firma
two at the-ends placed I-left and-garrisons there strong
posui, ut venienti Bruto exercituique eius sine mora
I-placed that for-the-coming Brutus and-army his without delay
transitus esset paratus. Ipse, ut spero, diebus viii, quibus
the-crossing might-be ready Myself as I-hope in-days eight after-which
has litteras dabam, cum Lepidi copiis me coniungam.
these letters I-was-sending with of-Lepidus forces myself will-join

X.19 · FINISH THE WAR

Cicero needed no thanks, knowing Plancus' gratitude, but confesses that the letter delighted him as visible proof of his love. The senate welcomed his letters both for the brave deeds they reported and for their weighty words. Cicero urges him to finish the war, since the greatest glory lies there; worn out with saving the state, Cicero favors Plancus' glory almost as much as his country, and whoever crushes Antony will have finished this foulest and most dangerous war.

Cicero Planco.
Cicero to-Plancus
Quamquam gratiarum actionem a te non desiderabam, 1
Although of-thanks the-giving from you not I-was-wanting
cum te re ipsa atque animo scirem esse gratissimum,
since that-you in-deed itself and in-mind I-knew to-be most-grateful

tamen (fatendum est enim) fuit ea mihi periucunda; sic
still to-be-confessed it-is for was it to-me most-delightful so
enim vidi, quasi ea quae oculis cernuntur, me
for I-saw as-if those-things which with-the-eyes are-discerned that-I
a te amari. Dices: 'quid antea?' Semper equidem sed
by you to-be-loved You-will-say what before Always for-my-part but
numquam inlustrius. Litterae tuae mirabiliter gratae sunt
never more-clearly The-letters your wonderfully welcome are
senatui cum rebus ipsis, quae erant gravissimae et
to-the-senate both by-the-things themselves which were most-weighty and
maximae, fortissimi animi summique consili, tum etiam
greatest of-the-bravest spirit and-of-the-highest counsel and also
gravitate sententiarum atque verborum.
by-the-weight of-sentiments and of-words

2 Sed, mi Plance, incumbe ut belli extrema perficias. In hoc
But my Plancus throw-yourself that of-the-war the-last-acts you-complete In this
erit summa et gratia et gloria. Cupio omnia rei p.
will-be the-sum both favor and glory I-desire all-things of-the-thing public
causa; sed me hercules in ea conservanda iam defetigatus
for-the-sake but so-help-me Hercules in it preserving now wearied
non multo plus patriae faveo quam tuae gloriae, cuius
not much more country I-favor than your glory of-which
maximam facultatem tibi di immortales, ut spero, dedere;
the-greatest opportunity to-you the-gods immortal as I-hope have-given
quam complectere obsecro. Qui enim Antonium oppresserit,
which embrace I-beseech Who for Antony will-have-crushed
is hoc bellum taeterrimum periculosissimumque confecerit.
he this war foulest and-most-dangerous will-have-finished

Reports from Gaul have been so uncertain that Cicero hardly knew what to write: now Lepidus is said to be loyal, now the reverse, though Plancus is everywhere said to be beyond deceit or defeat. Brutus' letter of the Ides of May says Plancus wrote that Lepidus would not receive Antony; Plancus should confirm it, for he could err once, but to be deceived twice is blamed by the proverb. Whoever crushes the remnants will have finished the whole war, and Cicero hopes it will be Plancus.

Cicero Planco.

Cicero to-Plancus

Ita erant omnia quae istim adferebantur incerta, ut 1
So were all-things which from-there were-brought uncertain that
quid ad te scriberem non occurreret. Modo enim quae
what to you I-should-write not occurred Now for what
vellemus de Lepido, modo contra nuntiabantur; de te
we-would-wish about Lepidus now the-contrary were-reported about you
tamen fama constans nec decipi posse nec vinci;
still report constant neither to-be-deceived to-be-able nor to-be-conquered
quorum alterius fortuna partem habet quandam, alterum
of-which of-the-one fortune part has some the-other
proprium est prudentiae tuae.
proper is to-the-prudence your
Sed accepi litteras a conlega tuo datas Idibus Maiis, 2
But I-received a-letter from colleague your dated on-the-Ides of-May
in quibus erat te ad se scripsisse a Lepido non
in which it-was that-you to him to-have-written by Lepidus not
recipi Antonium; quod erit certius, si tu ad nos idem
to-be-received that-Antony which will-be more-certain if you to us the-same
scripseris. Sed minus audes fortasse propter inanem
will-have-written But less you-dare perhaps on-account-of the-empty
laetitiam litterarum superiorum. Verum, ut errare, mi Plance,
joy of-the-letters earlier But as to-err my Plancus

potuisti (quis enim id effugerit?), sic decipi te non
you-could who for that could-escape so to-be-deceived that-you not
potuisse quis non videt? nunc vero etiam erroris causa
to-be-able who not sees now indeed even of-error the-cause
sublata est; culpa enim illa 'bis ad eundem' vulgari
removed is fault for that twice against the-same(-stone) by-a-common
reprehensa proverbio est. Sin ut scripsisti ad conlegam, ita
censured proverb is But-if as you-wrote to your-colleague so
se res habet, omni cura liberati sumus nec tamen
itself the-matter has from-all care freed we-have-been nor still
erimus prius quam ita esse tu nos feceris certiores.
we-shall-be before than so to-be you us will-have-made more-certain
3 Mea quidem, ut ad te saepius scripsi, haec sententia
My indeed as to you rather-often I-wrote this opinion
est, qui reliquias huius belli oppresserit, eum totius
is whoever the-remnants of-this war will-have-crushed him of-the-whole
belli confectorem fore; quem te et opto esse
war the-finisher to-be-going-to-be whom that-you both I-wish to-be
et confido futurum. Studia mea erga te, quibus certe
and trust going-to-be Zeal my toward you than-which certainly
nulla esse maiora potuerunt, tibi tam grata esse, quam
none to-be greater could to-you as pleasing to-be as
ego putavi fore, minime miror vehementerque laetor.
I I-thought going-to-be least I-wonder and-greatly I-rejoice
Quae quidem tu, si recte istic erit, maiora et graviora
Which indeed you if rightly there it-will-be greater and weightier
cognosces. iiii K. Iun.
you-will-find fourth before-the-Kalends of-June

Plancus would be ashamed of his changing letters if they did not hang on another's fickleness. He had trusted Lepidus' handwritten pledges and Laterensis, and marched to join him; then Lepidus' orderly brought a letter telling him not to come. Laterensis next wrote despairing of Lepidus' faith, and Lepidus' soldiers, worked on by their officers, shouted for peace and refused to fight anyone, though two consuls had been killed and the enemy declared. Plancus will not throw a loyal army into such a trap; he will hold his province and asks Cicero to send an army across quickly.

Plancus Ciceroni.

Plancus to-Cicero

Puderet me inconstantiae mearum litterarum, si non 1
it-would-shame me of-the-inconsistency of-my letters if not
haec ex aliena levitate penderent. Omnia feci qua
these-things on another's fickleness depended All-things I-did by-which
re Lepido coniuncto ad rem p. defendendam minore
thing with-Lepidus joined for the-thing public defending with-less
sollicitudine vestra perditis resisterem; omnia ei et petenti
anxiety of-yours the-desperate I-might-resist all-things to-him both asking
recepi et ultro pollicitus sum scripsique tibi biduo
I-guaranteed and unasked promised I-have and-I-wrote to-you two-days
ante confidere me bono Lepido esse usurum communique
before to-trust that-I good Lepidus to-be going-to-use and-with-common
consilio bellum administraturum. Credidi chirographis eius,
counsel the-war going-to-conduct I-believed the-handwritten-notes his
adfirmationi praesentis Laterensis, qui tum apud me erat
the-assurance present of-Laterensis who then with me was
reconciliaremque me Lepido fidemque haberem orabat. Non
and-that-I-reconcile myself to-Lepidus and-trust have was-begging Not

licuit diutius bene de eo sperare; illud certe cavi et
it-was-possible longer well of him to-hope that certainly I-took-care and
cavebo ne mea credulitate rei p. summa fallatur.
will-take-care that-not by-my credulity of-the-thing public the-sum be-deceived
2 Cum Isaram flumen uno die ponte effecto exercitum
When the-Isère river in-one day with-a-bridge made the-army
traduxissem pro magnitudine rei celeritatem
I-had-taken-across in-proportion-to the-greatness of-the-matter speed
adhibens, quod petierat per litteras ipse ut maturarem
applying as he-had-asked by letter he-himself that I-should-hasten
venire, praesto mihi fuit stator eius cum litteris, quibus
to-come at-hand for-me was orderly his with a-letter in-which
ne venirem denuntiabat; se posse per se
that-not I-should-come he-gave-notice that-he to-be-able by himself
conficere negotium; interea ad Isaram exspectarem. Indicabo
to-finish the-business meanwhile at the-Isère I-should-wait I-will-reveal
temerarium meum consilium tibi: Nihilo minus ire
rash my plan to-you By-nothing less to-go
decreram existimans eum socium gloriae vitare. Putabam
I-had-decided thinking that-he a-partner of-glory to-avoid I-thought
posse me nec de laude ieiuni hominis delibare
to-be-able that-I neither from the-praise of-the-starved man to-take-a-taste
quicquam et subesse tamen propinquis locis, ut, si durius
anything and to-be-close still in-neighboring places that if harsher
aliquid esset, succurrere celeriter possem.
anything happened to-come-to-help quickly I-could
3 Ego non malus homo hoc suspicabar. At Laterensis,
I not a-bad man this was-suspecting But Laterensis
vir sanctissimus, suo chirographo mittit mihi litteras
a-man most-upright in-his-own hand sends to-me a-letter
nimisque desperans de se, de exercitu, de Lepidi fide
and-very-much despairing of himself of the-army of of-Lepidus faith

querensque se destitutum, in quibus aperte denuntiat
and-complaining that-he deserted in which openly he-warns
videam ne fallar; suam fidem solutam esse; rei
I-should-see lest I-be-deceived his pledge discharged to-be to-the-thing
p. ne desim. Exemplar eius chirographi Titio misi;
public lest I-fail A-copy of-that handwritten-note to-Titius I-have-sent
ipsa chirographa omnia, et ea quibus credidi, et ea
the-very notes all both those which I-believed and those
quibus fidem non habendam putavi, Laevo Cispio dabo
which faith not to-be-had I-thought to-Laevus Cispius I-will-give
perferenda, qui omnibus iis interfuit rebus.
to-be-carried who in-all those took-part affairs
Accessit eo ut milites eius, cum Lepidus contionaretur, 4
It-was-added to-this that the-soldiers his when Lepidus was-addressing(-them)
improbi per se, corrupti etiam per eos qui praesunt,
wicked in themselves corrupted also by those who command
Canidios Rufrenosque et ceteros, quos cum opus erit
the-Canidii and-the-Rufreni and the-others whom when need will-be
scietis, conclamarent viri boni pacem se velle
you-will-know shouted men good peace that-they to-wish
neque esse cum ullis pugnaturos duobus iam consulibus
nor to-be with any going-to-fight with-two now consuls
singularibus occisis, tot civibus pro patria amissis,
outstanding killed so-many citizens for country lost
hostibus denique omnibus iudicatis bonisque publicatis;
enemies finally all declared and-goods confiscated
neque hoc aut vindicarat Lepidus aut sanarat.
nor this either had-punished Lepidus or had-cured
Hoc me venire et duobus exercitibus coniunctis obicere 5
Hither that-I to-come and with-two armies joined to-expose
exercitum fidelissimum, auxilia maxima, principes Galliae,
an-army most-faithful auxiliaries greatest the-chiefs of-Gaul

provinciam cunctam summae dementiae et temeritatis esse
the-province whole of-the-utmost madness and rashness to-be
vidi, mihique, si ita oppressus essem remque publicam
I-saw and-to-me if so crushed I-had-been and-the-thing public
mecum prodidissem, mortuo non modo honorem sed
with-me I-had-betrayed dead not only honor but
misericordiam quoque defuturum. Itaque rediturus sum nec
pity also going-to-be-lacking And-so going-to-return I-am nor
tanta munera perditis hominibus dari posse sinam.
such-great gifts to-the-desperate men to-be-given to-be-able I-will-allow
6 Ut exercitum locis habeam opportunis, provinciam tuear,
That the-army in-places I-may-have suitable the-province protect
etiam si ille exercitus descierit, omniaque integra servem
even if that army will-have-revolted and-all-things intact keep
dabo operam, quoad exercitus hoc summittatis parique
I-will-give effort until armies hither you-send-up and-with-equal
felicitate rem p. hic vindicetis. Nec depugnare, si occasio
good-fortune the-thing public here you-vindicate Nor to-fight-it-out if occasion
tulerit, nec obsideri, si necesse fuerit, nec mori, si
will-have-offered nor to-be-besieged if necessary it-will-be nor to-die if
casus inciderit, pro vobis paratior fuit quisquam. Qua
chance will-have-befallen for you more-ready was anyone By-which
re hortor te, mi Cicero, exercitum hoc traiciendum
thing I-urge you my Cicero the-army hither to-be-brought-across
quam primum cures et matures, prius quam hostes
as first you-see-to and hasten before than the-enemy
magis conroborentur et nostri perturbentur. In quo si
more be-strengthened and ours be-thrown-into-confusion In which if
celeritas erit adhibita, res p. in possessione victoriae
speed will-be applied the-thing public in possession of-victory
deletis sceleratis permanebit. Fac valeas meque diligas.
with-destroyed criminals will-remain Make you-are-well and-me you-love

Plancus excuses his brother, a brave citizen ready for anything, who has fallen into a persistent fever from his labors and will hurry back as soon as he can. He commends his own standing to Cicero, whose love and authority he already has; he asks only that Cicero put him in the place that Hirtius held, both in his affection and in Plancus' regard.

Plancus Ciceroni.

Plancus to-Cicero

Fratrem meum tibi, fortissimum civem et ad omnia 7

Brother my to-you a-most-brave citizen and for all-things

paratissimum, excusem litteris? qui ex labore in febriculam

most-ready I-would-excuse by-letter who from labor into a-slight-fever

incidit adsiduam et satis molestam. Cum primum poterit,

has-fallen constant and rather troublesome When first he-will-be-able

istoc recurrere non dubitabit, ne quo loco rei p.

thither to-hasten-back not he-will-hesitate lest in-any place to-the-thing public

desit. Meam dignitatem commendatam habeas rogo.

he-be-wanting My dignity commended you-hold I-ask

Concupiscere me nihil oportet; habeo te et amantissimum

To-covet that-I nothing it-behooves I-have you both most-loving

mei et, quod optavi, summae auctoritatis; tu videris

of-me and what I-wished of-the-highest authority you will-see

quantum et quando tuum munus apud me velis esse.

how-much and when your gift with me you-wish to-be

Tantum te rogo, in Hirti locum me subdas et ad

Only you I-ask into of-Hirtius the-place me you-put both to

tuum amorem et ad meam observantiam.

your love and to my regard

All hope rests on Plancus and his colleague, whose harmony, reported in their letters, has delighted the senate and the city. On the land grant Plancus raised, the senate, if consulted, would have followed the most honorable motion, which would have been Cicero's; but debates moved so slowly that Cicero and Plancus' brother chose to use the existing decree, and Cicero supposes Plancus has already learned from his brother's letters who blocked it. Plancus may be sure that every honor stands ready for him.

Cicero Planco.

Cicero to-Plancus

1 In te et in conlega omnis spes est dis adprobantibus.

In you and in your-colleague all hope is with-the-gods approving

Concordia vestra, quae senatui declarata litteris vestris

Harmony your which to-the-senate declared by-letters your

est, mirifice et senatus et cuncta civitas delectata

has-been wonderfully both the-senate and the-whole state delighted

est. Quod ad me scripseras de re agraria, si

has-been As-for-what to me you-had-written about the-matter agrarian if

consultus senatus esset, ut quisque honorificentissimam

consulted the-senate had-been as each most-honorable

de te sententiam dixisset, eam secutus esset; qui

about you opinion had-given it followed it-would-have who

certe ego fuissem. Sed propter tarditatem sententiarum

certainly I would-have-been But on-account-of the-slowness of-the-motions

moramque rerum cum ea, quae consulebantur, ad

and-delay of-affairs since those-things which were-being-debated to

exitum non pervenirent, commodissimum mihi Plancoque

an-end not were-coming most-convenient to-me and-to-Plancus

fratri visum est uti eo s. c., quod ne nostro

your-brother seemed it-has to-use that of-the-senate decree which lest by-our

arbitratu componeretur, quis fuerit impedimento, arbitror
judgment it-be-arranged who was as-an-obstacle I-suppose
te ex Planci litteris cognovisse.
that-you from of-Plancus letters to-have-learned
Sed sive in s. c. sive in ceteris rebus desideras 2
But whether in of-the-senate decree or in other things you-miss
aliquid, sic tibi persuade, tantam esse apud omnis bonos tui
anything thus yourself persuade so-great to-be with all the-good for-you
caritatem, ut nullum genus amplissimae dignitatis excogitari
affection that no kind of-most-ample dignity to-be-devised
possit, quod tibi non paratum sit. Litteras tuas vehementer
can which for-you not ready is Letter your earnestly
exspecto, et quidem talis qualis maxime opto. Vale.
I-await and indeed such as most I-wish Farewell

X.23 · THE RETREAT OVER THE ISÈRE

Plancus will never regret facing danger for his country, so long as no one can charge him with rashness. He did not trust Lepidus blindly; shame drove him to risk an approach, encamping forty miles off behind a river. When Lepidus joined Antony on the fourth before the Kalends of June and both marched on him, he withdrew across the Isère, losing nothing, and broke the bridges. Laterensis, who had trusted Lepidus, tried to kill himself. Plancus asks Cicero to send Caesar or his army, for the whole enemy is now gathered.

Plancus Ciceroni.
Plancus to-Cicero
Numquam me hercules, mi Cicero, me paenitebit maxima 1
Never so-help-me Hercules my Cicero me it-will-repent the-greatest
pericula pro patria subire, dum, si quid acciderit mihi,
dangers for country to-undergo provided if anything will-have-happened to-me

a reprehensione temeritatis absim. Confiterer imprudentia
from the-reproach of-rashness I-be-free I-would-confess through-imprudence
me lapsum, si umquam Lepido ex animo credidissem;
that-I to-have-slipped if ever Lepidus from the-heart I-had-believed
credulitas enim error est magis quam culpa, et quidem in
credulity for an-error is rather than a-fault and indeed into
optimi cuiusque mentem facillime inrepit; sed ego non hoc
of-the-best each mind most-easily creeps but I not by-this
vitio paene sum deceptus, Lepidum enim pulchre noram. Quid
fault almost I-have been-deceived Lepidus for perfectly I-knew What
ergo est? Pudor me, qui in bello maxime est periculosus,
therefore is-it Shame me which in war most is dangerous
hunc casum coegit subire; nam si uno loco essem, verebar
this risk compelled to-undergo for if in-one place I-stayed I-feared
ne cui obtrectatorum viderer et nimium pertinaciter
lest to-some of-detractors I-should-seem both too stubbornly
Lepido offensus et mea patientia etiam alere bellum.
with-Lepidus offended and by-my patience even to-feed the-war
2 Itaque copias prope in conspectum Lepidi Antonique adduxi
And-so forces almost into sight of-Lepidus and-of-Antony I-brought
quadragintaque millium passuum spatio relicto consedi
and-forty thousand paces with-a-space left I-encamped
eo consilio ut vel celeriter accedere vel salutariter
with-this plan that either quickly to-approach or safely
recipere me possem. Adiunxi haec in loco eligendo,
to-withdraw myself I-could I-added this in the-place choosing
flumen oppositum ut haberem, in quo mora transitus
a-river opposed that I-might-have in which delay of-crossing
esset, Vocontii sub manu ut essent, per quorum loca
might-be the-Vocontii under hand that might-be through whose lands
fideliter mihi pateret iter. Lepidus desperato adventu
faithfully to-me might-lie-open the-road Lepidus with-despaired-of arrival

meo, quem non mediocriter captabat, se cum Antonio
my which not moderately he-was-seeking himself with Antony
coniunxit a. d. iiii K. Iun., eodemque die
joined on-the day fourth before-the-Kalends of-June and-on-the-same day
ad me castra moverunt. Viginti millia passuum cum
toward me camp they-moved Twenty thousand paces when
abessent, res mihi nuntiata est.
they-were-distant the-matter to-me reported was
Dedi operam deum benignitate ut et celeriter me reciperem 3
I-gave effort of-the-gods by-the-kindness that both quickly myself I-withdrew
et hic discessus nihil fugae simile haberet, non miles ullus,
and this departure nothing of-flight like had not soldier any
non eques, non quicquam impedimentorum amitteretur aut
not horseman not any of-baggage was-lost or
ab illis ferventibus latronibus interciperetur. Itaque pridie
by those raging brigands was-intercepted And-so on-the-day-before
Nonas Iunias omnis copias Isaram traieci pontisque quos
the-Nones of-June all forces the-Isère I-took-across and-the-bridges which
feceram interrupi, ut spatium ad colligendum se homines
I-had-made I-broke that time for collecting themselves men
haberent et ego me interea cum conlega coniungerem;
might-have and I myself meanwhile with my-colleague might-join
quem triduo, cum has dabam litteras, exspectabam.
whom in-three-days when these I-was-sending letters I-was-expecting
Laterensis nostri et fidem et animum singularem in 4
Of-Laterensis our both loyalty and spirit singular toward
re p. semper fatebor; sed certe nimia eius
the-thing public always I-shall-confess but certainly excessive his
indulgentia in Lepidum ad haec pericula perspicienda
indulgence toward Lepidus for these dangers perceiving
fecit eum minus sagacem. Qui quidem cum in fraudem
made him less sharp Who indeed when into deceit

se deductum videret, manus, quas iustius in Lepidi
that-he led saw hands which more-justly for of-Lepidus
perniciem armasset, sibi adferre conatus est; in
the-destruction he-would-have-armed to-himself to-lay tried has in
quo casu tamen interpellatus et adhuc vivit et dicitur
which mishap still interrupted both still lives and is-said
victurus; sed tamen de hoc parum mihi certum est.
going-to-live but still about this too-little to-me certain is
Magno cum dolore parricidarum elapsus sum iis;
Great with pain of-the-parricides slipped-away I-have from-them
veniebant enim eodem furore in me quo in
they-were-coming for with-the-same fury against me with-which against
patriam incitati, iracundias autem harum rerum recentis
the-country incited angers however about-these things fresh
habebant, quod Lepidum castigare non destiteram ut
they-had because Lepidus to-chastise not I-had-ceased that
exstingueret bellum, quod conloquia facta improbabam,
he-should-extinguish the-war because the-conferences held I-was-disapproving
quod legatos fide Lepidi missos ad me in conspectum
because the-envoys on-the-pledge of-Lepidus sent to me into sight
venire vetueram, quod C. Catium Vestinum, tr.
to-come I-had-forbidden because Gaius Catius Vestinus tribune
mil., missum ab Antonio ad eum cum litteris
of-the-soldiers sent by Antony to him with a-letter
exceperam numeroque hostis habueram. In quo hanc
I-had-intercepted and-in-the-number of-an-enemy had-held(-him) In which this
capio voluptatem, quod certe, quo magis me petiverunt,
I-take pleasure that certainly the more me they-sought
tanto maiorem iis frustratio dolorem attulit.
by-so-much greater to-them the-baffling pain has-brought

Tu, mi Cicero, quod adhuc fecisti, idem praesta, ut 6
You my Cicero what so-far you-have-done the-same perform that
vigilanter nervoseque nos, qui stamus in acie, subornes.
vigilantly and-vigorously us who stand in the-battle-line you-equip
Veniat Caesar cum copiis quas habet firmissimas, aut, si ipsum
Let-come Caesar with forces which he-has strongest or if him
aliqua res impedit, exercitus mittatur; cuius ipsius magnum
some thing hinders the-army be-sent whose own great
periculum agitur. Quicquid aliquando futurum fuit in castris
danger is-at-stake Whatever ever going-to-be was in the-camp
perditorum contra patriam, hoc omne iam convenit; pro
of-the-desperate against country this all now has-gathered for
urbis vero salute cur non omnibus facultatibus quas habemus
of-the-city indeed safety why not all resources which we-have
utamur? Quod si vos istic non defueritis, profecto, quod ad
should-we-use But if you there not will-have-failed surely as to
me attinet, omnibus rebus abunde rei p. satis faciam.
me pertains in-all things abundantly to-the-thing public enough I-shall-do
Te quidem, mi Cicero, in dies me hercules habeo 7
You indeed my Cicero into days so-help-me Hercules I-hold
cariorem, sollicitudinesque meas cotidie magis tua merita
dearer and-anxieties my daily more your services
exacuunt ne quid aut ex amore aut ex iudicio tuo
sharpen lest anything either of love or of judgment your
perdam. Opto ut mihi liceat iam praesenti pietate
I-lose I-wish that to-me it-be-allowed now by-present devotion
meorum officiorum tua beneficia tibi facere iucundiora.
of-my services your kindnesses to-you to-make more-pleasant
viii Idus Iun. Cularone ex finibus Allobrogum.
eighth before-the-Ides of-June at-Cularo from the-borders of-the-Allobroges

Plancus thanks Cicero with shame at so cheap a return and hopes to repay him in attention and devotion. He wanted the senate to reward his soldiers to keep them loyal. He holds his ground beside Brutus: he has three veteran legions and one of recruits, and Brutus one veteran, one second-year, and eight raw legions, an army large in number but weak in strength. Young Caesar, whom he respects as his father's heir, promised to come and has turned instead to seeking a two-month consulship; that Antony lives and Lepidus is with him can all be laid at Caesar's door. Furnius has gone to urge him.

Plancus imp. cos. des. s. d. Ciceroni.

Plancus imperator consul elect greeting says to-Cicero

1 Facere non possum quin in singulas res meritaque tua
To-do not I-can but-that for single deeds and-services your
tibi gratias agam, sed me hercules facio cum pudore.
to-you thanks I-give but so-help-me Hercules I-do(-it) with shame
Neque enim tanta necessitudo, quantam tu mihi tecum esse
Nor for so-great connection as-great-as you to-me with-you to-be
voluisti, desiderare videtur gratiarum actionem, neque ego
you-have-wished to-want seems of-thanks the-giving nor I
libenter pro maximis tuis beneficiis tam vili munere defungor
gladly for the-greatest your kindnesses so cheap a-service discharge
orationis et malo praesens observantia, indulgentia, adsiduitate
of-speech and I-prefer present by-attention by-devotion by-constancy
memorem me tibi probare. Quod si mihi vita contigerit,
mindful myself to-you to-prove But if to-me life will-have-been-granted
omnis gratas amicitias atque etiam pias propinquitates in tua
all grateful friendships and even dutiful kinships in your
observantia, indulgentia, adsiduitate, vincam; amor enim tuus
attention devotion constancy I-shall-surpass love for your

ac iudicium de me utrum mihi plus dignitatis in perpetuum
and judgment about me whether to-me more of-dignity for ever
an voluptatis cotidie sit adlaturus non facile dixerim.
or of-pleasure daily is going-to-bring not easily I-could-say
De militum commodis fuit tibi curae; quos ego non 2
About of-the-soldiers interests it-was to-you a-concern whom I not
potentiae meae causa (nihil enim me non salutariter
of-power my for-the-sake nothing for that-I not beneficially
cogitare scio) ornari volui a senatu, sed primum
to-think I-know to-be-honored I-wished by the-senate but first
quod ita meritos iudicabam, deinde quod ad omnis casus
because so deserving I-judged then because for all chances
coniunctiores rei p. esse volebam, novissime ut
more-closely-bound to-the-thing public to-be I-wished lastly that
ab omni omnium sollicitatione aversos eos talis vobis
from every of-all tampering turned-away them such to-you
praestare possem, quales adhuc fuerunt.
to-present I-might-be-able as so-far they-have-been
Nos adhuc hic omnia integra sustinuimus. Quod consilium 3
We so-far here all-things intact have-maintained Which plan
nostrum, etsi quanta sit aviditas hominum non sine
our although how-great is the-eagerness of-men not without
causa talis victoriae scio, tamen vobis probari spero.
reason for-such a-victory I-know still by-you to-be-approved I-hope
Non enim, si quid in his exercitibus sit offensum, magna
Not for if anything in these armies be gone-wrong great
subsidia res p. habet expedita, quibus subito impetu
reserves the-thing public has ready with-which the-sudden onset
ac latrocinio parricidarum resistat. Copias vero nostras
and brigandage of-the-parricides it-may-resist Forces indeed our
notas tibi esse arbitror. In castris meis legiones sunt
known to-you to-be I-think In camp my legions are

veteranae tres, tironum vel luculentissima ex omnibus
veteran three of-recruits by-far the-finest of all
una, in castris Bruti una veterana legio, altera bima,
one in camp of-Brutus one veteran legion another two-year-old
octo tironum. Ita universus exercitus numero amplissimus
eight of-recruits So whole army in-number very-large
est, firmitate exiguus. Quantum autem in acie tironi sit
is in-strength slight How-much however in battle to-a-recruit is
committendum, nimium saepe expertum habemus.
to-be-entrusted too often experienced we-have

4 Ad hoc robur nostrorum exercituum sive Africanus
To this strength of-our armies whether the-African
exercitus, qui est veteranus, sive Caesaris accessisset, aequo
army which is veteran or Caesar's had-been-added with-even
animo summam rem p. in discrimen deduceremus;
mind the-whole thing public into jeopardy we-would-bring
aliquanto autem propius esse, quod ad Caesarem attinet,
by-a-good-deal however nearer to-be as to Caesar pertains
videbamus. Nihil destiti eum litteris hortari, neque ille
we-saw Not-at-all I-have-ceased him by-letter to-urge nor he
intermisit adfirmare se sine mora venire, cum interim
has-left-off to-affirm that-he without delay to-come while meanwhile
aversum illum ab hac cogitatione ad alia consilia video
turned-away him from this thought to other plans I-see
se contulisse. Ego tamen ad eum Furnium nostrum cum
himself to-have-betaken I still to him Furnius our with
mandatis litterisque misi, si quid forte proficere posset.
instructions and-a-letter I-have-sent if anything perhaps to-achieve he-could

5 Scis tu, mi Cicero, quod ad Caesaris amorem attinet,
You-know you my Cicero as to Caesar's love pertains
societatem mihi esse tecum, vel quod in familiaritate Caesaris
a-partnership to-me to-be with-you either because in the-friendship of-Caesar

vivo illo iam tueri eum et diligere fuit mihi necesse,
with-living him already to-protect him and to-love it-was for-me necessary
vel quod ipse, quoad ego nosse potui, moderatissimi atque
or because he-himself as-far-as I to-know could of-most-moderate and
humanissimi fuit sensus, vel quod ex tam insigni amicitia
most-humane was feeling or because out-of so signal friendship
mea atque Caesaris hunc filii loco et illius et vestro
my and of-Caesar this-man of-a-son in-the-place both his and your
iudicio substitutum non proinde habere turpe mihi videtur.
by-judgment substituted not accordingly to-hold shameful to-me seems
Sed (quicquid tibi scribo, dolenter me hercules magis 6
But whatever to-you I-write in-sorrow so-help-me Hercules rather
quam inimice facio) quod vivit Antonius hodie, quod Lepidus
than in-enmity I-do that lives Antony today that Lepidus
una est, quod exercitus habent non contemnendos, quod
together is that armies they-have not to-be-despised that
sperant, quod audent, omne Caesari acceptum referre possunt.
they-hope that they-dare all to-Caesar received to-enter they-can
Neque ego superiora repetam; sed ex eo tempore, quo
Nor I the-earlier I-shall-go-back-over but from that time when
ipse mihi professus est se venire, si venire voluisset,
he-himself to-me declared has that-he to-be-coming if to-come he-had-wished
aut oppressum iam bellum esset aut in aversissimam illis
either crushed already the-war would-be or into the-most-hostile to-them
Hispaniam cum detrimento eorum maximo extrusum. Quae
Spain with loss their greatest thrust What
mens eum aut quorum consilia a tanta gloria, sibi vero
mind him or whose counsels from so-great glory for-himself indeed
etiam necessaria ac salutari, avocarit et ad cogitationem
even necessary and salutary has-called-away and to the-thought

consulatus bimestris summo cum terrore hominum et
of-a-consulship of-two-months the-highest with terror of-men and
insulsa cum efflagitatione transtulerit, exputare non possum.
foolish with importunity has-turned to-make-out not I-can
7 Multum in hac re mihi videntur necessarii eius et
Much in this matter to-me seem the-connections his both
rei p. et ipsius causa proficere posse, plurimum,
of-the-thing public and his-own for-the-sake to-achieve to-be-able most
ut puto, tu quoque, cuius ille tanta merita habet, quanta
as I-think you also whose he such-great services has as
nemo praeter me. Numquam enim obliviscar maxima ac
no-one except me Never for I-shall-forget the-greatest and
plurima me tibi debere. De his rebus ut exigeret cum
the-most that-I to-you to-owe About these things that he-should-press with
eo Furnio mandavi. Quod si quantam debeo habuero
him to-Furnius I-have-given-instructions But if as-much-as I-ought I-shall-have
apud eum auctoritatem, plurimum ipsum iuvero.
with him influence very-much him I-shall-have-helped
8 Nos interea duriore condicione bellum sustinemus, quod
We meanwhile on-harder terms the-war maintain because
neque expeditissimam dimicationem putamus neque tamen
neither the-quickest engagement we-think(-best) nor still
refugiendo commissuri sumus ut maius detrimentum res
by-shrinking going-to-allow we-are that greater harm the-thing
p. accipere possit. Quod si aut Caesar se respexerit,
public to-receive can But if either Caesar to-himself will-have-looked-back
aut Africanae legiones celeriter venerint, securos vos ab hac
or the-African legions quickly will-have-come secure you on this
parte reddemus. Tu, ut instituisti, me diligas rogo proprieque
side we-shall-make You as you-have-begun me you-love I-ask and-especially
tuum esse tibi persuadeas. v. K. Sext. ex castris.
yours to-be yourself you-persuade fifth before-the-Kalends of-Sextilis from camp

Cicero tells Furnius that if the state needs him, nothing is more honorable than to keep serving it in the field, which should come before a quick praetorship; he has won glory second only to Plancus'. If the work is done, he should come to the elections, provided haste does not dim his glory; many great men passed over their year of candidacy, and his is not yet due, so he loses nothing. Cicero would have him measure all by dignity rather than ambition, as he told his friends at home.

Cicero s. d. Furnio.

Cicero greeting says to-Furnius

Si interest, id quod homines arbitrantur, rei p. 1

If it-is-of-importance that which men think for-the-thing public

te, ut instituisti atque fecisti, navare operam rebusque

that-you as you-have-begun and have-done to-devote effort and-in-the-affairs

maximis, quae ad exstinguendas reliquias belli pertinent,

greatest which to extinguishing the-remnants of-the-war pertain

interesse, nihil videris melius neque laudabilius neque

to-take-part nothing you-seem better nor more-praiseworthy nor

honestius facere posse, istamque operam tuam, navitatem,

more-honorable to-do to-be-able and-that effort your energy

animum in rem p. celeritati praeturae anteponendam

spirit toward the-thing public to-the-speed of-the-praetorship to-be-preferred

censeo. Nolo enim te ignorare quantam laudem

I-think I-do-not-wish for you to-be-ignorant how-great praise

consecutus sis; mihi crede, proximam Planco, idque ipsius

attained you-have me believe next to-Plancus and-that of-himself

Planci testimonio, praeterea fama scientiaque omnium.

of-Plancus by-the-testimony besides by-the-report and-knowledge of-all

Quam ob rem, si quid operis tibi etiam nunc 2

Which on-account-of thing if any of-work to-you still now

restat, id maximo opere censeo persequendum; quid enim

remains that in-greatest measure I-think to-be-pursued what for

honestius, aut quid honesto anteponendum? Sin autem
more-honorable or what to-the-honorable to-be-preferred But-if however
satis factum rei p. putas, celeriter ad comitia,
enough done for-the-thing public you-think quickly to the-elections
quoniam mature futura sunt, veniendum censeo, dum
since early going-to-be they-are to-be-come I-think provided
modo ne haec ambitiosa festinatio aliquid imminuat eius
only not this ambitious haste somewhat lessen of-that
gloriae, quam consecuti sumus. Multi clarissimi viri, cum
glory which attained we-have Many most-illustrious men when
rei p. darent operam, annum petitionis suae non
to-the-thing public were-giving effort the-year of-candidacy their not
obierunt. Quod eo facilius nobis est, quod non est
took-up Which for-this more-easily for-us is because not is
annus hic tibi destinatus, ut, si aedilis fuisses, post
year this to-you appointed so-that if aedile you-had-been after
biennium tuus annus esset. Nunc nihil praetermittere
two-years your year would-be Now nothing to-pass-over
videbere usitati et quasi legitimi temporis ad petendum.
you-will-seem of-the-usual and as-it-were lawful time for standing
Video autem Planco cos., etsi etiam sine eo rationes
I-see however with-Plancus as-consul although even without him plans
expeditas haberes, tamen splendidiorem petitionem tuam,
ready you-would-have still more-splendid candidacy your
si modo ista ex sententia confecta essent.
if only those-things according-to wish accomplished should-be

3 Omnino plura me scribere, cum tuum tantum consilium
Altogether more that-I to-write since your so-great counsel
iudiciumque sit, non ita necesse arbitrabar; sed tamen
and-judgment is not so necessary I-thought but still
sententiam meam tibi ignotam esse nolebam; cuius est
opinion my to-you unknown to-be I-did-not-wish of-which is

haec summa, ut omnia te metiri dignitate malim
this sum that all-things that-you to-measure by-dignity I-would-prefer
quam ambitione maioremque fructum ponere in perpetuitate
than by-ambition and-greater fruit to-place in the-permanence
laudis quam in celeritate praeturae. Haec eadem locutus
of-praise than in the-speed of-the-praetorship These same-things spoken
sum domi meae adhibito Quinto, fratre meo, et Caecina
I-have at-house my with-summoned Quintus brother my and Caecina
et Calvisio studiosissimis tui, cum Dardanus, libertus
and Calvisius most-devoted to-you while Dardanus freedman
tuus, interesset. Omnibus probari videbatur oratio mea;
your was-present By-all to-be-approved seemed speech my
sed tu optime iudicabis.
but you best will-judge

X.26 · THE ELECTIONS POSTPONED

Furnius wrote that he must either abandon the Narbonese or fight at great risk; Cicero feared the battle more and is glad it was avoided, and he rests his hope of victory on Plancus' and Brutus' harmony. But he was vexed by Furnius' threat to hurry to the elections if they fell in August, or home sooner still if they were over, rather than play the fool in danger. A praetorship sought in haste would pull him from great praise; nothing is sweeter than the duty and glory he already has. Cicero is pushing the elections back to January as far as he can.

M. Cicero s. d. C. Furnio.
Marcus Cicero greeting says to-Gaius Furnius
Lectis tuis litteris, quibus declarabas aut omittendos 1
With-read your letter in-which you-declared either to-be-abandoned
Narbonensis aut cum periculo dimicandum, illud magis timui;
the-Narbonese or with danger to-be-fought that more I-feared

quod vitatum non moleste fero. Quod de Planci et Bruti
which avoided not ill I-bear As-for-what about of-Plancus and of-Brutus
concordia scribis, in eo vel maximam spem pono victoriae.
the-harmony you-write in that by-far the-greatest hope I-place of-victory
De Gallorum studio nos aliquando cognoscemus, ut scribis,
About of-the-Gauls the-zeal we some-day will-learn as you-write
cuius id opera maxime excitatum sit; sed iam, mihi crede,
whose it by-efforts most aroused was but already me believe
cognovimus. Itaque iucundissimis tuis litteris stomachatus
we-have-learned(-it) And-so with-most-delightful your letter vexed
sum in extremo; scribis enim, si in Sextilem comitia, cito te,
I-was in the-end you-write for if into Sextilis the-elections quickly you
sin iam confecta, citius, ne diutius cum periculo fatuus sis.
but-if already held quicker lest longer with danger a-fool you-be

2 O mi Furni, quam tu tuam causam non nosti, qui alienas
O my Furnius how you your-own case not know who others'
tam facile discas! Tu nunc candidatum te putas et id
so easily learn You now a-candidate yourself think and this
cogitas, ut aut ad comitia curras aut, si iam confecta,
you-intend that either to the-elections you-run or if already held
domi tuae sis, ne cum maximo periculo, ut scribis,
at-home your you-are lest with the-greatest danger as you-write
stultissimus sis? Non arbitror te ita sentire; omnis
the-greatest-fool you-be Not I-think that-you so to-feel all
enim tuos ad laudem impetus novi. Quod si ut scribis
for your toward praise impulses I-know But if as you-write
ita sentis, non magis te quam de te iudicium reprehendo
so you-feel not more you than about you judgment I-blame
meum. Te adipiscendi magistratus levissimi et divulgatissimi,
my You of-obtaining a-magistracy most-trivial and most-common
si ita adipiscare ut plerique, praepropera festinatio abducet
if so you-obtain(-it) as most over-hasty haste will-lead-away

a tantis laudibus, quibus te omnes in caelum iure
from such-great praises with-which you all into heaven rightly
et vere ferunt? Scilicet id agitur utrum hac petitione
and truly raise Of-course that is-at-issue whether at-this candidacy
an proxima praetor fias, non ut ita de re p.
or the-next praetor you-become not that so of the-thing public
mereare, omni honore ut dignissimus iudicere.
you-may-deserve of-every honor that most-worthy you-be-judged
Utrum nescis quam alte ascenderis, an pro nihilo 3
Whether you-do-not-know how high you-have-climbed or as nothing
id putas? Si nescis, tibi ignosco, nos in culpa sumus;
it you-count If you-do-not-know you I-pardon we in fault are
sin intellegis, ulla tibi est praetura vel officio, quod
but-if you-understand any to-you is praetorship either than-duty which
pauci, vel gloria, quam omnes sequuntur, dulcior? Hac
few or than-glory which all pursue sweeter This
de re et ego et Calvisius, homo magni iudici
about matter both I and Calvisius a-man of-great judgment
tuique amantissimus, te accusamus cotidie. Comitia tamen,
and-of-you most-loving you accuse daily The-elections still
quoniam ex iis pendes, quantum facere possumus, quod
since on them you-depend as-far-as to-do we-can which
multis de causis rei p. arbitramur conducere, in
many for reasons to-the-thing public we-think to-be-advantageous into
Ianuarium mensem protrudimus. Vince igitur et vale.
January month we-are-pushing Win therefore and farewell

Cicero regrets that Lepidus, honored by the senate, has not thanked it. He is glad Lepidus wants peace among citizens: if it is separated from slavery, he will serve the republic and his own dignity; if it would restore a ruined man to tyranny, every sane man would choose death over slavery. Lepidus would be wiser not to meddle in this peacemaking, which no good man approves.

Cicero Lepido s.

Cicero to-Lepidus greeting

1 Quod mihi pro summa erga te benevolentia
Because to-me in-accordance-with the-highest toward you goodwill
magnae curae est, ut quam amplissima dignitate sis,
of-great concern it-is that as most-ample in-dignity you-be
moleste tuli te senatui gratias non egisse, cum
ill I-took(-it) that-you to-the-senate thanks not to-have-given when
esses ab eo ordine ornatus summis honoribus. Pacis
you-had-been by that order honored with-the-highest honors Of-peace
inter civis conciliandae te cupidum esse laetor. Eam
between citizens to-be-brought-about that-you eager to-be I-rejoice It
si a servitute seiungis, consules et rei p.
if from slavery you-separate you-will-consult both for-the-thing public
et dignitati tuae; sin ista pax perditum hominem in
and for-the-dignity your but-if that peace a-desperate man into
possessionem impotentissimi dominatus restitutura est, hoc
possession of-the-most-unbridled tyranny going-to-restore is of-this
animo scito omnis sanos, ut mortem servituti anteponant.
mind know all the-sane that death to-slavery they-prefer

2 Itaque sapientius meo quidem iudicio facies, si te in
And-so more-wisely in-my indeed judgment you-will-act if yourself into
istam pacificationem non interpones, quae neque senatui
that peace-making not you-will-insert which neither to-the-senate

neque populo nec cuiquam bono probatur. Sed haec
nor to-the-people nor to-any good-man is-approved But these-things
audies ex aliis aut certior fies litteris; tu pro
you-will-hear from others or more-certain you-will-be-made by-letters you by
tua prudentia quid optimum factu sit videbis.
your prudence what best to-do is will-see

X.28 · THE BANQUET OF THE IDES

Cicero wishes Trebonius had invited him to the splendid feast of the Ides of March: there would be no leftovers now. Antony, whom Trebonius drew aside that day, lives on and burdens Cicero. Since Antony's departure Cicero has recovered his old spirit, and on the thirteenth before the Kalends of January he roused the senate and gave the people hope of liberty. The senate is brave, the consulars timid or disloyal, the consuls excellent, Decimus Brutus splendid, and young Caesar's veterans saved the state from Antony.

Cicero Trebonio s.
Cicero to-Trebonius greeting
Quam vellem ad illas pulcherrimas epulas me Idibus 1
How I-would-wish to those most-beautiful feasts me on-the-Ides
Martiis invitasses! reliquiarum nihil haberemus. At nunc
of-March you-had-invited of-leftovers nothing we-would-have But now
cum iis tantum negoti est, ut vestrum illud divinum in
with them so-much of-business there-is that your that divine toward
rem p. beneficium non nullam habeat querelam. Quod
the-thing public service not none may-have complaint That
vero a te, viro optimo, seductus est tuoque beneficio
indeed by you a-man excellent drawn-aside he-was and-by-your kindness
adhuc vivit haec pestis, interdum, quod mihi vix fas est,
still lives this plague sometimes which for-me scarcely right is

tibi subirascor; mihi enim negoti plus reliquisti uni
with-you I-am-a-little-angry to-me for of-business more you-have-left to-one
quam praeter me omnibus. Ut enim primum post Antoni
than except me to-all As for first after of-Antony
foedissimum discessum senatus haberi libere potuit, ad illum
most-shameful departure the-senate to-be-held freely could to that
animum meum reverti pristinum, quem tu cum civi
spirit my I-returned former which you with a-citizen
acerrimo, patre tuo, in ore et amore semper habuisti.
most-vigorous father your in mouth and love always you-have-had

2 Nam cum senatum a. d. xiii K. Ian.
For when the-senate on-the day thirteenth before-the-Kalends of-January
tr. pl. vocavissent deque alia re referrent,
the-tribunes of-the-plebs had-summoned and-about another matter were-bringing(-it)
totam rem p. sum complexus egique acerrime
the-whole thing public I-have embraced and-I-acted most-vigorously
senatumque iam languentem et defessum ad pristinam
and-the-senate already languishing and weary to its-former
virtutem consuetudinemque revocavi magis animi quam
courage and-custom I-recalled more of-spirit than
ingeni viribus. Hic dies meaque contentio atque actio
of-talent by-the-strength This day and-my effort and action
spem primum populo R. attulit libertatis reciperandae;
hope first to-the-people Roman brought of-liberty to-be-recovered
nec vero ipse postea tempus ullum intermisi de re
nor indeed I-myself afterward time any I-have-let-pass about the-thing
p. non cogitandi solum sed etiam agendi.
public not of-thinking only but also of-acting

3 Quod nisi res urbanas actaque omnia ad te perferri
But unless affairs of-the-city and-proceedings all to you to-be-carried
arbitrarer, ipse perscriberem, quamquam eram maximis
I-supposed myself I-would-write-out although I-was by-the-greatest

occupationibus impeditus. Sed illa cognosces ex aliis;
occupations hindered But those-things you-will-learn from others
a me pauca, et ea summatim. Habemus fortem
from me a-few-things and those summarily We-have a-brave
senatum, consularis partim timidos, partim male sentientis;
senate consulars partly timid partly ill disposed
magnum damnum factum est in Servio; L. Caesar
great loss suffered has-been in Servius Lucius Caesar
optime sentit sed, quod avunculus est, non acerrimas dicit
best feels but because uncle he-is not most-vigorous he-gives
sententias; consules egregii, praeclarus D. Brutus, egregius
motions the-consuls excellent splendid Decimus Brutus excellent
puer Caesar, de quo spero equidem reliqua; hoc vero certum
the-boy Caesar of whom I-hope for-my-part the-rest this indeed certain
habeto, nisi ille veteranos celeriter conscripsisset legionesque
hold unless he the-veterans quickly had-enrolled and-legions
duae de exercitu Antoni ad eius se auctoritatem
two from the-army of-Antony to his themselves authority
contulissent atque is oppositus esset terror Antonio, nihil
had-betaken and he set-against had-been a-terror to-Antony nothing
Antonium sceleris, nihil crudelitatis praeteriturum fuisse.
that-Antony of-crime nothing of-cruelty going-to-pass-over to-have-been
Haec tibi, etsi audita esse arbitrabar, volui tamen
These-things to-you although heard to-have-been I-supposed I-wished still
notiora esse. Plura scribam, si plus oti habuero.
better-known to-be More I-will-write if more of-leisure I-shall-have

Cicero assures Appius that he has worked for his safety as hard as his own friends, as their letters will show, and that none of them can do him more good at present. He has already laid the foundations of his rescue in the most important matter and will not give up; Appius should keep his spirits high and trust Cicero never to fail him.

Cicero Appio s.

Cicero to-Appius greeting

1 De meo studio erga salutem et incolumitatem tuam
About my zeal for the-safety and well-being your
credo te cognosse ex litteris tuorum; quibus me
I-believe that-you to-have-learned from the-letters of-your-people to-whom that-I
cumulatissime satis fecisse certo scio, nec iis concedo,
most-abundantly enough to-have-done for-certain I-know nor to-them I-yield
quamquam sunt singulari in te benevolentia, ut te
although they-are of-singular toward you goodwill that you
salvum malint quam ego. Illi mihi necesse est concedant
safe they-would-rather than I They to-me necessary it-is should-yield
ut tibi plus quam ipsi hoc tempore prodesse possim;
that you more than they at-this time to-benefit I-can
quod quidem nec destiti facere nec desistam et iam
which indeed neither I-have-ceased to-do nor I-shall-cease and already
in maxima re feci et fundamenta ieci salutis
in the-greatest matter I-have-done(-it) and foundations I-have-laid of-the-safety
tuae. Tu fac bono animo magnoque sis meque tibi nulla
your You make of-good mind and-of-great you-be and-that-I to-you in-no
re defuturum esse confidas. Pridie Non. Quintilis.
thing going-to-be-lacking to-be trust On-the-day-before the-Nones of-Quintilis

Galba describes the battle, in which he fought on the right wing. On the eighteenth before the Kalends of May, as he escorted Pansa toward Hirtius' camp, Antony led out two legions and two praetorian cohorts, thinking to meet only four legions of recruits. The Martian legion could not be held back; Galba's right wing routed Antony's thirty-fifth, but Galba, cut off among the Antonians, escaped only when his own men recognized him. Antony's attack on the camp failed, and Hirtius, coming up with twenty veteran cohorts, destroyed his returning forces; two eagles and sixty standards were taken.

Galba Ciceroni s.

Galba to-Cicero greeting

A. d. xviii K. Mai., quo die Pansa in 1

On-the day eighteenth before-the-Kalends of-May on-which day Pansa in

castris Hirti erat futurus, cum quo ego eram (nam ei

the-camp of-Hirtius was going-to-be with whom I was for him

obviam processeram millia passus centum, quo maturius

to-meet I-had-gone-forward thousand paces a-hundred that more-quickly

veniret), Antonius legiones eduxit duas, secundam et

he-might-come Antony legions led-out two the-second and

quintam tricesimam, et cohortis praetorias duas, unam

fifth (and)-thirtieth and cohorts praetorian two one

suam, alteram Silani, et evocatorum partem. Ita obviam

his-own the-other of-Silanus and of-the-recalled-veterans part So to-meet

venit nobis, quod nos quattuor legiones tironum habere

he-came us because that-we four legions of-recruits to-have

solum arbitrabatur. Sed noctu, quo tutius venire in

only he-supposed But by-night that more-safely to-come into

castra potuissemus, legionem Martiam, cui ego praeesse

the-camp we-might-be-able the-legion Martian which I to-command

solebam, et duas cohortis praetorias miserat Hirtius nobis.

used and two cohorts praetorian had-sent Hirtius to-us

2 Cum equites Antoni apparuissent, contineri neque legio
When the-horsemen of-Antony had-appeared to-be-held-back neither the-legion
Martia neque cohortes praetoriae potuerunt; quas sequi
Martian nor the-cohorts praetorian could which to-follow
coepimus coacti, quoniam retinere eas non potueramus.
we-began compelled since to-hold-back them not we-had-been-able
Antonius ad Forum Gallorum suas copias continebat neque
Antony at Forum of-the-Gauls his forces was-keeping nor
sciri volebat se legiones habere; tantum equitatum
to-be-known he-wished that-he legions to-have only cavalry
et levem armaturam ostendebat. Postea quam vidit se
and light armament he-was-showing After that he-saw with-himself
invito legionem ire Pansa, sequi se duas legiones iussit
unwilling that-the-legion to-go Pansa to-follow him two legions ordered
tironum. Postea quam angustias paludis et silvarum
of-recruits After that the-narrows of-the-marsh and of-the-woods
transiimus, acies est instructa a nobis xii cohortium;
we-crossed the-line was drawn-up by us of-twelve cohorts
nondum venerant legiones duae:
not-yet had-come legions two

3 repente Antonius in aciem suas copias de vico produxit
suddenly Antony into the-line his forces from the-village led-out
et sine mora concurrit. Primo ita pugnatum est, ut
and without delay charged At-first so fought it-was that
acrius non posset ex utraque parte pugnari; etsi dexterius
more-fiercely not could(-it) on both side to-be-fought although the-right
cornu, in quo ego eram cum Martiae legionis cohortibus
wing in which I was with of-the-Martian legion cohorts
octo, impetu primo fugaverat legionem xxxv Antoni,
eight at-the-onset first had-routed the-legion thirty-fifth of-Antony
ut amplius passus D ultra aciem, quo loco steterat,
so-that more paces five-hundred beyond the-line where place it-had-stood

processerit. Itaque cum equites nostrum cornu circumire
it-advanced And-so when the-horsemen our wing to-surround
vellent, recipere me coepi et levem armaturam opponere
wished to-withdraw myself I-began and the-light armament to-set-against
Maurorum equitibus, ne aversos nostros adgrederentur.
of-the-Moors horsemen lest turned-away ours they-attack
Interim video me esse inter Antonianos Antoniumque post
Meanwhile I-see that-I to-be among the-Antonians and-that-Antony behind
me esse aliquanto. Repente equum immisi ad eam legionem
me to-be a-good-way Suddenly my-horse I-spurred to that legion
tironum, quae veniebat ex castris, scuto reiecto. Antoniani
of-recruits which was-coming from the-camp with-shield thrown-back the-Antonians
me insequi; nostri pila coicere velle. Ita nescio
me were-pursuing ours javelins to-hurl were-wanting So I-know-not
quo fato sum servatus, quod sum cito a nostris cognitus.
by-what fate I-was saved because I-was quickly by ours recognized
In ipsa Aemilia, ubi cohors Caesaris praetoria erat, 4
On the-very Aemilian(-Way) where the-cohort of-Caesar praetorian was
diu pugnatum est. Cornu sinisterius, quod erat infirmius,
long fought it-was The-wing left which was weaker
ubi Martiae legionis duae cohortes erant et cohors
where of-the-Martian legion two cohorts were and the-cohort
praetoria, pedem referre coeperunt, quod ab equitatu
praetorian foot to-draw-back began because by cavalry
circumibantur, quo vel plurimum valet Antonius.
they-were-being-surrounded in-which by-far most is-strong Antony
Cum omnes se recepissent nostri ordines, recipere me
When all themselves had-withdrawn our ranks to-withdraw myself
novissimus coepi ad castra. Antonius tamquam victor castra
last I-began to the-camp Antony as-if victor the-camp
putavit se posse capere. Quo cum venit, compluris ibi
thought that-he to-be-able to-take Where when he-came very-many there

amisit nec egit quicquam. Audita re Hirtius cum
he-lost nor he-accomplished anything With-heard the-news Hirtius with
cohortibus xx veteranis redeunti Antonio in sua castra
cohorts twenty veteran returning Antony into his camp
occurrit copiasque eius omnis delevit, fugavit eodemque
met and-forces his all destroyed routed and-in-the-same
loco, ubi erat pugnatum, ad Forum Gallorum; Antonius
place where it-had-been fought at Forum of-the-Gauls Antony
cum equitibus hora noctis quarta se in castra sua
with horsemen at-the-hour of-night fourth himself into camp his
ad Mutinam recepit;
at Mutina withdrew
Hirtius in ea castra redit, unde Pansa exierat, ubi
Hirtius into that camp returns from-where Pansa had-gone-out where
duas legiones reliquerat, quae ab Antonio erant oppugnatae.
two legions he-had-left which by Antony had-been attacked
Sic partem maiorem suarum copiarum Antonius amisit
Thus part the-greater of-his forces Antony lost
veteranarum; nec id tamen sine aliqua iactura cohortium
veteran nor that still without some loss of-cohorts
praetoriarum nostrarum et legionis Martiae fieri potuit.
praetorian our and of-the-legion Martian to-be-done could
Aquilae duae, signa lx sunt relata Antoni; res bene
Eagles two standards sixty have-been brought-back of-Antony the-affair well
gesta est. A. d. xvii K. Mai. ex castris.
managed has-been On-the day seventeenth before-the-Kalends of-May from camp

Pollio has written nothing because the Castulo pass and men posted by both sides stop his couriers. He hated the civil war, loved Caesar faithfully, and learned from the odium he earned what liberty is worth; he will be the enemy of any one-man rule. The consuls never told him what to do, and Lepidus blocks his route and letters. He refused to hand over his province or his thirtieth legion; he is surprised that Cicero has not told him whether to stay or bring his army to Italy, and has decided to march.

C. Asinius Pollio Ciceroni s. d.
Gaius Asinius Pollio to-Cicero greeting says

Minime mirum tibi debet videri nihil me scripsisse 1
Least strange to-you ought to-seem nothing that-I to-have-written
de re p., postea quam itum est ad arma. Nam
about the-thing public after that gone it-was to arms For
saltus Castulonensis, qui semper tenuit nostros tabellarios,
the-pass of-Castulo which always has-held our couriers
etsi nunc frequentioribus latrociniis infestior factus est,
although now by-more-frequent robberies more-dangerous become it-has
tamen nequaquam tanta in mora est, quanta qui locis
still by-no-means so-great in delay is as-great-as those-who in-places
omnibus dispositi ab utraque parte scrutantur tabellarios
all posted on both side search couriers
et retinent. Itaque nisi nave perlatae litterae essent,
and detain And-so unless by-ship carried letters had-been
omnino nescirem quid istic fieret. Nunc vero nactus
at-all I-would-not-know what there was-happening Now indeed having-got
occasionem, postea quam navigari coeptum est, cupidissime
the-chance after that to-be-sailed begun it-has most-eagerly
et quam creberrime potero scribam ad te.
and as most-often I-shall-be-able I-will-write to you

2 Ne movear eius sermonibus, quem tametsi nemo est
That-not I-be-moved by-his talk whom although no-one is
qui videre velit, tamen nequaquam proinde ac dignus est
who to-see wishes still by-no-means as-much as deserving he-is
oderunt homines, periculum non est; adeo est enim invisus
hate men danger not is so he-is for hateful
mihi, ut nihil non acerbum putem, quod commune cum
to-me that nothing not bitter I-think which common with
illo sit. Natura autem mea et studia trahunt me ad pacis
him is Nature however my and pursuits draw me to of-peace
et libertatis cupiditatem. Itaque illud initium civilis belli
and of-liberty desire And-so that beginning of-civil war
saepe deflevi; cum vero non liceret mihi nullius partis
often I-bewailed when indeed not it-was-allowed to-me of-no party
esse, quia utrubique magnos inimicos habebam, ea castra
to-be because on-both-sides great enemies I-had that camp
fugi, in quibus plane tutum me ab insidiis inimici
I-fled in which quite safe that-I from the-plots of-an-enemy
sciebam non futurum; compulsus eo quo minime volebam,
I-knew not going-to-be driven thither where least I-wished
ne in extremis essem, plane pericula non dubitanter adii.
lest in the-last(-ranks) I-should-be quite dangers not hesitatingly I-faced
3 Caesarem vero, quod me in tanta fortuna modo cognitum
Caesar indeed because me in so-great fortune only-just known
vetustissimorum familiarium loco habuit, dilexi summa
of-the-oldest friends in-the-place he-held I-loved the-utmost
cum pietate et fide. Quae mea sententia gerere mihi
with devotion and loyalty What-things by-my judgment to-do to-me
licuit, ita feci ut optimus quisque maxime probarit;
it-was-allowed so I-did that best each most approved
quod iussus sum, eo tempore atque ita feci ut appareret
what ordered I-was at-that time and so I-did that it-was-apparent

invito imperatum esse. Cuius facti iniustissima
to-one-unwilling ordered to-have-been Of-which deed the-most-unjust
invidia erudire me potuit quam iucunda libertas et quam
odium to-teach me could how pleasant liberty and how
misera sub dominatione vita esset. Ita si id agitur ut
wretched under tyranny life was So if that is-at-issue that
rursus in potestate omnia unius sint, quicumque is est,
again in the-power all-things of-one be whoever he is
ei me profiteor inimicum, nec periculum est ullum
to-him myself I-declare an-enemy nor danger is-there any
quod pro libertate aut refugiam aut deprecer.
which for liberty either I-would-shrink-from or beg-off
Sed consules neque senatus consulto neque litteris suis 4
But the-consuls neither of-the-senate by-decree nor by-letters their-own
praeceperant mihi quid facerem; unas enim post Idus
had-instructed me what I-should-do one for after the-Ides
Mart. demum a Pansa litteras accepi, in quibus hortatur
of-March at-last from Pansa letter I-received in which he-urges
me ut senatu scribam me et exercitum in potestate eius
me that to-the-senate I-write that-I and the-army in the-power its
futurum. Quod, cum Lepidus contionaretur atque omnibus
going-to-be Which since Lepidus was-haranguing and to-all
scriberet se consentire cum Antonio, maxime contrarium
was-writing that-he to-agree with Antony most contrary
fuit; nam quibus commeatibus invito illo per illius
was for by-what supplies with-unwilling him through his
provinciam legiones ducerem? aut si cetera transissem,
province the-legions should-I-lead or if the-rest I-had-passed
num etiam Alpis poteram transvolare, quae praesidio
surely-not even the-Alps could-I to-fly-over which by-the-garrison
illius tenentur? Adde huc quod perferri litterae nulla
his are-held Add to-this that to-be-carried letters on-no

condicione potuerunt; sescentis enim locis excutiuntur,
terms could in-six-hundred for places they-are-searched
deinde etiam retinentur ab Lepido tabellarii.
then even are-detained by Lepidus the-couriers
5 Illud me Cordubae pro contione dixisse nemo vocabit in
That that-I at-Corduba before the-assembly to-have-said no-one will-call into
dubium, provinciam me nulli, nisi qui ab senatu missus
doubt the-province that-I to-no-one except who by the-senate sent
venisset, traditurum. Nam de legione tricesima tradenda
had-come going-to-hand-over For about the-legion thirtieth to-be-handed-over
quantas contentiones habuerim quid ego scribam? Qua
how-great struggles I-had why I should-write Which
tradita quanto pro re p. infirmior futurus
with-handed-over by-how-much for the-thing public weaker going-to-be
fuerim quis ignorat? Hac enim legione noli acrius
I-would-have-been who is-ignorant Than-this for legion do-not more-fierce
aut pugnacius quicquam putare esse. Qua re eum me
or more-warlike anything think to-be By-which thing the-one that-I
existima esse, qui primum pacis cupidissimus sim (omnis
consider to-be who first of-peace most-desirous am all
enim civis plane studeo esse salvos), deinde qui et me
for the-citizens fully I-am-eager to-be safe then who both myself
et rem publicam vindicare in libertatem paratus sim.
and the-thing public to-claim into liberty prepared am
6 Quod familiarem meum tuorum numero habes,
That friend my of-your-friends in-the-number you-have
opinione tua mihi gratius est; invideo illi tamen, quod
than-expectation your to-me more-pleasing is I-envy him still because
ambulat et iocatur tecum. Quaeres quanti aestimem.
he-walks and jokes with-you You-will-ask at-how-much I-value(-that)
Si umquam licuerit vivere in otio, experieris; nullum
If ever it-will-be-allowed to-live in leisure you-will-find-out not-one

enim vestigium abs te discessurus sum. Illud vehementer
for step from you going-to-depart I-am That greatly
admiror, non scripsisse te mihi manendo in provincia
I-wonder-at not to-have-written that-you to-me by-staying in the-province
an ducendo exercitum in Italiam rei p. magis satis
or by-leading the-army into Italy to-the-thing public more enough
facere possim. Ego quidem, etsi mihi tutius ac minus
to-do I-can I indeed although for-me safer and less
laboriosum est manere, tamen, quia video tali tempore
laborious is to-stay still because I-see at-such time
multo magis legionibus opus esse quam provinciis, quae
much more legions need to-be than provinces which
praesertim reciperari nullo negotio possunt, constitui, ut
especially to-be-recovered with-no trouble can I-have-resolved as
nunc est, cum exercitu proficisci. Deinde ex litteris, quas
now it-is with the-army to-set-out Then from the-letter which
Pansae misi, cognosces omnia; nam tibi earum exemplar
to-Pansa I-sent you-will-learn all-things for to-you of-it a-copy
misi. xvii K. Apr. Corduba.
I-have-sent seventeenth before-the-Kalends of-April from-Corduba

X.32 · BALBUS' CRIMES

Balbus the quaestor has fled Gades with the province's gold and silver, the soldiers unpaid, to King Bogud. Besides plunder he aped Caesar: he gave an actor a gold ring, extended his own office, held two years' elections in two days, staged a play about his own journey, burned a Roman citizen alive as he cried out his citizenship, and threw Roman citizens to the beasts. Pollio has kept his three legions loyal against Antony's and Lepidus' bribes and kept his province at peace; he asks the senate's orders.

C. Asinius Pollio Ciceroni.

Gaius Asinius Pollio to-Cicero

1 Balbus quaestor magna numerata pecunia, magno pondere auri,
Balbus the-quaestor with-great counted money with-great weight of-gold
maiore argenti coacto de publicis exactionibus, ne stipendio
with-greater of-silver collected from public levies not with-pay
quidem militibus reddito duxit se a Gadibus et triduum
even to-the-soldiers paid took himself from Gades and for-three-days
tempestate retentus ad Calpem K. Iun. traiecit sese
by-storm held-back to Calpe on-the-Kalends of-June crossed himself
in regnum Bogudis plane bene peculiatus. His rumoribus
into the-kingdom of-Bogud quite well feathered By-these rumors
utrum Gadis referatur an Romam (ad singulos enim
whether to-Gades he-will-be-carried-back or to-Rome at single for
nuntios turpissime consilia mutat) nondum scio.
reports most-disgracefully plans he-changes not-yet I-know

2 Sed praeter furta et rapinas et virgis caesos socios
But besides thefts and robberies and with-rods beaten allies
haec quoque fecit, ut ipse gloriari solet, eadem
these-things also he-did as he-himself to-boast is-wont the-same-things
quae C. Caesar: Ludis, quos Gadibus fecit, Herennium
which Gaius Caesar At-the-games which at-Gades he-gave Herennius
Gallum histrionem summo ludorum die anulo aureo
Gallus the-actor on-the-last of-the-games day with-a-ring golden
donatum in xiiii sessum deduxit (tot enim
presented into the-fourteen(-rows) to-sit he-led so-many for
fecerat ordines equestris loci); quattuorviratum sibi
he-had-made rows of-the-equestrian place the-quattuorvirate for-himself
prorogavit; comitia bienni biduo habuit, hoc est
he-extended the-elections of-two-years in-two-days he-held that is
renuntiavit quos ei visum est; exsules reduxit
he-declared-elected whom to-him it-seemed(-good) it-has exiles he-brought-back

non horum temporum, sed illorum quibus a seditiosis
not of-these times but of-those in-which by the-seditious
senatus trucidatus aut expulsus est Sex. Varo procos.
the-senate slaughtered or expelled was with-Sextus Varus proconsul
Illa vero iam ne Caesaris quidem exemplo, quod ludis 3
Those-things indeed now not of-Caesar even by-the-example that at-the-games
praetextam de suo itinere ad L. Lentulum procos.
a-historical-play about his-own journey to Lucius Lentulus proconsul
sollicitandum posuit, et quidem cum ageretur, flevit
to-be-tampered-with he-put-on and indeed when it-was-being-performed he-wept
memoria rerum gestarum commotus; gladiatoribus
by-the-memory of-the-things done moved at-the-gladiatorial-games
autem Fadium quendam, militem Pompeianum, quia, cum
however Fadius a-certain soldier Pompeian because when
depressus in ludum bis gratis depugnasset, auctorare
thrust-down into the-school twice for-nothing he-had-fought to-hire-out
sese nolebat et ad populum confugerat, primum Gallos
himself he-was-unwilling and to the-people had-fled first Gallic
equites immisit in populum (coniecti enim lapides sunt in
horsemen he-sent into the-people thrown for stones were at
eum, cum abriperetur Fadius), deinde abstractum defodit
him when was-being-carried-off Fadius then dragged-off he-buried
in ludo et vivum combussit, cum quidem pransus
in the-school and alive burned while indeed having-lunched
nudis pedibus, tunica soluta, manibus ad tergum reiectis
with-bare feet with-tunic loosened with-hands behind back thrown
inambularet et illi misero quiritanti: 'C. R. natus
he-was-strolling and to-that wretch crying-out A-citizen Roman born
sum' responderet: 'Abi nunc, populi fidem implora';
I-am answered Go now of-the-people the-protection implore
bestiis vero civis Romanos, in iis circulatorem quendam
to-beasts indeed citizens Roman among them a-peddler certain

auctionum, notissimum hominem Hispali, quia deformis
of-auctions a-very-well-known man at-Hispalis because deformed
erat, obiecit. Cum huiusce modi portento res mihi fuit.
he-was he-threw With of-this kind monster business to-me has-been
4 Sed de illo plura coram; nunc, quod praestat, quid me velitis
But about him more face-to-face now what is-better what me you-wish
facere constituite. Tris legiones firmas habeo, quarum unam,
to-do decide Three legions strong I-have of-which one
xxviii, cum ad se initio belli arcessisset Antonius
twenty-eighth when to himself at-the-beginning of-the-war had-summoned Antony
hac pollicitatione, quo die in castra venisset, denarios
with-this promise on-what day into the-camp it-had-come denarii
quingenos singulis militibus daturum, in victoria vero eadem
five-hundred-each to-each soldier going-to-give in victory indeed the-same
praemia quae suis legionibus (quorum quis ullam finem aut
rewards as to-his-own legions of-which who any end or
modum futurum putabit?), incitatissimam retinui aegre
limit going-to-be will-think most-roused I-held-back with-difficulty
me hercules, nec retinuissem, si uno loco habuissem,
so-help-me Hercules nor I-would-have-held(-it)-back if in-one place I-had-kept(-it)
utpote cum singulae quaedam cohortes seditionem fecerint.
seeing that single certain cohorts mutiny have-made
Reliquas quoque legiones non destitit litteris atque infinitis
The-rest also legions not he-ceased by-letters and by-boundless
pollicitationibus incitare. Nec vero minus Lepidus ursit me et
promises to-rouse Nor indeed less Lepidus pressed me both
suis et Antoni litteris ut legionem xxx mitterem sibi.
by-his-own and Antony's letters that the-legion thirtieth I-should-send to-him
5 Itaque quem exercitum neque vendere ullis praemiis
And-so which army neither to-sell for-any rewards
volui nec eorum periculorum metu, quae victoribus
I-wished nor of-those dangers through-fear which to-victors

illis portendebantur, deminuere, debetis existimare retentum
those were-threatened to-diminish you-ought to-consider held-back
et conservatum rei p. esse atque ita credere,
and preserved for-the-thing public to-have-been and so to-believe
quodcumque imperassetis, facturum fuisse, si quod iussistis
whatever you-had-ordered going-to-do to-have-been if what you-ordered
feci. Nam et provinciam in otio et exercitum in mea
I-did For both the-province in peace and the-army in my
potestate tenui, finibus meae provinciae nusquam excessi,
power I-held the-borders of-my province nowhere I-went-beyond
militem non modo legionarium sed ne auxiliarium quidem
soldier not only legionary but not auxiliary even
ullum quoquam misi et, si quos equites decedentis nactus
any anywhere I-sent and if any horsemen deserting caught
sum, supplicio adfeci. Quarum rerum fructum satis
I-have with-punishment I-visited Of-which things the-fruit enough
magnum re p. salva tulisse me putabo; sed
great with-the-thing public safe to-have-borne that-I I-shall-think but
res p. si me satis novisset et maior pars senatus,
the-thing public if me enough had-known and the-greater part of-the-senate
maiores ex me fructus tulisset. Epistulam, quam Balbo,
greater from me fruits would-have-borne The-letter which to-Balbus
cum etiam nunc in provincia esset, scripsi, legendam tibi
when still now in the-province he-was I-wrote to-be-read to-you
misi; etiam praetextam si voles legere, Gallum Cornelium,
I-have-sent also the-historical-play if you-wish to-read Gallus Cornelius
familiarem meum, poscito. vi Idus Iun. Corduba.
friend my ask-for sixth before-the-Ides of-June from-Corduba

Lepidus held Pollio's couriers nine days. Had the senate summoned him as it did Plancus and Lepidus, the state would not have suffered this wound, for Italy's best soldiers have perished. He could not march through Lepidus' province without coaxing him and feared slander over his friendship with Antony; his letters from Gades left the day of Pansa's battle. Reports say Pansa, Hirtius, and perhaps Octavian are dead and Antony has five thousand horse and three legions; no one should wait for the senate, and Pollio will set out his plan in his next letter.

Pollio Ciceroni s. p.
Pollio to-Cicero greeting very-much

1 S. v. b. e. e. q. v. Quo tardius certior
If you-are-well well it-is I also am-well That more-slowly more-certain
fierem de proeliis apud Mutinam factis Lepidus
I-might-be-made about the-battles at Mutina fought Lepidus
effecit, qui meos tabellarios novem dies retinuit; tametsi
brought-about who my couriers nine days held-back although
tantam calamitatem rei p. quam tardissime audire
so-great calamity of-the-thing public as most-slowly to-hear
optandum est, sed illis, qui prodesse nihil possunt neque
to-be-wished it-is but for-those who to-help not-at-all can nor
mederi. Atque utinam eodem s. c., quo Plancum
to-heal And would-that by-the-same of-the-senate decree by-which Plancus
et Lepidum in Italiam arcessistis, me quoque iussissetis
and Lepidus into Italy you-summoned me also you-had-ordered
venire! profecto non accepisset res p. hoc vulnus.
to-come surely not would-have-received the-thing public this wound
Quo si qui laetantur in praesentia, quia videntur et duces
At-which if any rejoice at present because seem both the-leaders
et veterani Caesaris partium interisse, tamen postmodo
and the-veterans of-Caesar's party to-have-perished still afterward

necesse est doleant, cum vastitatem Italiae respexerint;
necessary it-is they-grieve when the-devastation of-Italy they-will-have-looked-back-on
nam et robur et suboles militum interiit, si quidem
for both the-strength and the-offspring of-soldiers has-perished if indeed
quae nuntiantur ulla ex parte vera sunt.
what-things are-reported any from part true are
Neque ego non videbam quanto usui rei p. essem 2
Nor I not saw of-how-great use to-the-thing public I-would-be
futurus, si ad Lepidum venissem; omnem enim cunctationem
going-to-be if to Lepidus I-had-come all for hesitation
eius discussissem, praesertim adiutore Planco; sed scribenti ad
his I-would-have-dispelled especially with-helper Plancus but writing to
me eius modi litteras quas leges et contionibus videlicet,
me of-that kind letters which you-will-read and to-the-speeches doubtless
quas Narbone habuisse dicitur, similis palparer necesse erat, si
which at-Narbo to-have-held he-is-said like I-should-coax necessary it-was if
vellem commeatus per provinciam eius iter faciens habere.
I-wished supplies through province his the-march making to-have
Praeterea verebar ne, si ante quam ego incepta perficerem
Besides I-feared lest if before than I the-undertakings might-complete
proelium confectum esset, pium consilium meum raperent
the-battle fought had-been dutiful plan my would-snatch
in contrariam partem obtrectatores mei propter amicitiam,
into the-contrary side detractors my on-account-of the-friendship
quae mihi cum Antonio non maior tamen quam Planco fuit.
which to-me with Antony not greater still than to-Plancus was
Itaque a Gadibus mense Aprili binis tabellariis in duas 3
And-so from Gades in-the-month of-April two couriers on two
navis impositis et tibi et consulibus et Octaviano scripsi
ships put both to-you and to-the-consuls and to-Octavianus I-wrote
ut me faceretis certiorem quonam modo plurimum possem
that me you-should-make more-certain in-what way most I-could

prodesse rei p. Sed, ut rationem ineo, quo die proelium
to-benefit the-thing public But as account I-reckon on-what day battle
Pansa commisit, eodem a Gadibus naves profectae sunt;
Pansa joined on-the-same from Gades the-ships set-out have
nulla enim post hiemem fuit ante eam diem navigatio. Et
no for after the-winter there-was before that day sailing And
ego me hercules longe remotus ab omni suspicione futuri
I so-help-me Hercules far removed from every suspicion of-future
civilis tumultus penitus in Lusitania legiones in hibernis
civil disturbance deep in Lusitania the-legions in winter-quarters
conlocaram. Ita porro festinavit uterque confligere, tamquam
I-had-placed So moreover hastened each to-engage as-if
nihil peius timerent quam ne sine maximo rei p.
nothing worse they-feared than lest without the-greatest of-the-thing public
detrimento bellum componeretur. Sed si properandum fuit,
harm the-war be-settled But if hastening was-needed
nihil non summi ducis consilio gessisse Hirtium video.
nothing not of-a-supreme general with-counsel to-have-done that-Hirtius I-see
4 Nunc haec mihi scribuntur ex Gallia Lepidi et
Now these-things to-me are-written from Gaul of-Lepidus and
nuntiantur, Pansae exercitum concisum esse, Pansam ex
are-reported of-Pansa that-the-army cut-up to-have-been that-Pansa from
vulneribus mortuum, eodem proelio Martiam legionem
wounds dead in-the-same battle that-the-Martian legion
interisse et L. Fabatum et C. Peducaeum et D.
to-have-perished and Lucius Fabatus and Gaius Peducaeus and Decimus
Carfulenum; Hirtino autem proelio et quartam legionem
Carfulenus in-the-Hirtian however battle both that-the-fourth legion
et omnis peraeque Antoni caesas, item Hirti, quartam
and all equally of-Antony cut-down likewise of-Hirtius the-fourth
vero, cum castra quoque Antoni cepisset, a quinta legione
indeed when the-camp also of-Antony it-had-taken by the-fifth legion

concisam esse; ibi Hirtium quoque perisse et
cut-up to-have-been there that-Hirtius also to-have-perished and
Pontium Aquilam; dici etiam Octavianum cecidisse (quae
Pontius Aquila to-be-said even that-Octavianus to-have-fallen which
si, quod di prohibeant! vera sunt, non mediocriter doleo);
if which the-gods may-forbid true are not moderately I-grieve
Antonium turpiter Mutinae obsessionem reliquisse sed habere
That-Antony shamefully of-Mutina the-siege to-have-left but to-have
equitum v̄, legiones sub signis armatas tris et
of-horsemen five-thousand legions under the-standards armed three and
P. Bagienni unam, inermis bene multos; Ventidium
of-Publius Bagiennus one unarmed(-men) very many that-Ventidius
quoque se cum legione vii, viii, viiii coniunxisse;
also himself with legion seventh eighth ninth to-have-joined
si nihil in Lepido spei sit, descensurum ad extrema
if nothing in Lepidus of-hope there-be going-to-descend to the-extremes
et non modo nationes sed etiam servitia concitaturum;
and not only the-tribes but even the-slaves going-to-rouse
Parmam direptam; L. Antonium Alpis occupasse.
that-Parma plundered that-Lucius Antonius the-Alps to-have-seized
Quae si vera sunt, nemini nostrum cessandum est nec 5
Which if true are for-no-one of-us to-be-idle is nor
exspectandum quid decernat senatus; res enim cogit
to-be-waited what may-decree the-senate the-situation for compels
huic tanto incendio succurrere omnis, qui aut imperium aut
this so-great conflagration to-help all who either the-empire or
nomen denique populi R. salvum volunt esse. Brutum
the-name finally of-the-people Roman safe wish to-be That-Brutus
enim cohortis xvii et duas non frequentis tironum
for cohorts seventeen and two not full of-recruits
legiones, quas conscripserat Antonius, habere audio. Neque
legions which had-enrolled Antony to-have I-hear Nor

tamen dubito quin omnes qui supersint de Hirti exercitu
still I-doubt but-that all who survive of of-Hirtius army
confluant ad eum. Nam in dilectu non multum spei puto
flock to him For in the-levy not much of-hope I-think
esse, praesertim cum nihil sit periculosius quam spatium
to-be especially since nothing is more-dangerous than time
confirmandi sese Antonio dari. Anni autem tempus
of-strengthening himself to-Antony to-be-given Of-the-year however the-season
libertatem maiorem mihi dat, propterea quia frumenta aut
freedom greater to-me gives for-this-reason because the-grain either
in agris aut in villis sunt. Itaque proximis litteris consilium
in fields or in farmhouses is And-so in-the-next letter plan
meum expedietur; nam neque desse neque superesse
my will-be-set-out for neither to-be-lacking nor to-be-more-than-needed
rei p. volo. Maxime tamen doleo adeo et longo
to-the-thing public I-wish Most still I-grieve so both long
et infesto itinere ad me veniri, ut die quadragesimo
and dangerous a-journey to me to-be-come that on-the-day fortieth
post aut ultra etiam quam facta sunt omnia nuntientur.
after or beyond even that done they-were all-things are-reported

X.34 · LEPIDUS AT THE ARGENTEUS

Lepidus reports that on hearing that Antony was entering his province he marched against him and camped on the Argenteus, opposite the Antonii, with whom Ventidius has joined his three legions. Antony has much cavalry but many of his men are unarmed, and deserters come over daily. Silanus and Culleo have left Antony; though they wronged him, Lepidus has spared them but does not use them. He will not fail the senate or the republic.

Lepidus imp. iter. pont. max. s. d. M.
Lepidus imperator for-the-second-time pontifex maximus greeting says to-Marcus
Tullio Ciceroni.
Tullius Cicero
S. v. b. e. e. v. Cum audissem M. 1
If you-are-well well it-is I am-well When I-had-heard that-Mark
Antonium cum suis copiis praemisso L. Antonio cum
Antony with his forces with-sent-ahead Lucius Antonius with
parte equitatus in provinciam meam venire, cum exercitu
part of-the-cavalry into province my to-be-coming with army
meo ab confluente Rhodani castra movi ac contra eos
my from the-confluence of-the-Rhone camp I-moved and against them
venire institui. Itaque continuis itineribus ad Forum Voconi
to-come I-began And-so by-continuous marches to Forum of-Voconius
veni et ultra castra ad flumen Argenteum contra Antonios
I-came and beyond camp at the-river Argenteus facing the-Antonii
feci. P. Ventidius suas legiones tris coniunxit cum eo
I-made Publius Ventidius his legions three joined with him
et ultra me castra posuit. Habebat antea legionem v
and beyond me camp pitched He-had before legion fifth
et ex reliquis legionibus magnam multitudinem sed
and from the-remaining legions a-great multitude but
inermorum. Equitatum habet magnum; nam omnis ex
of-unarmed-men Cavalry he-has great for all from
proelio integer discessit ita ut sint amplius equitum
the-battle intact came-away so that there-are more of-horsemen
milia quinque. Ad me complures milites et equites ab
thousands five To me several soldiers and horsemen from
eo transierunt et in dies singulos eius copiae minuuntur.
him have-crossed and into days single his forces are-lessened

2 Silanus et Culleo ab eo discesserunt. Nos etsi graviter
Silanus and Culleo from him have-departed We although seriously
ab iis laesi eramus, quod contra nostram voluntatem
by them hurt we-had-been because against our will
ad Antonium ierant, tamen nostrae humanitatis et
to Antony they-had-gone still of-our humanity and
necessitudinis causa eorum salutis rationem habuimus
connection for-the-sake their safety account we-have-taken
nec tamen eorum opera utimur neque in castris habemus
nor still their service we-use nor in camp have(-them)
neque ulli negotio praefecimus. Quod ad bellum hoc
nor over-any business we-have-set(-them) As to war this
attinet, nec senatui nec rei p. derimus. Quae
pertains neither the-senate nor the-thing public we-shall-fail What-things
postea egerimus faciam te certiorem.
afterward we-shall-have-done I-will-make you more-certain

X.34A · LEPIDUS ASKS FOR TRUST

Lepidus knows that in this sudden upheaval his detractors have sent Cicero false reports about him, and he is grateful that Cicero received them calmly and did not believe them rashly. He remembers Cicero's earlier support and asks him to expect from him conduct as worthy of Lepidus as before and to protect him with his authority.

Lepidus Ciceroni.
Lepidus to-Cicero
3 Etsi omni tempore summa studia offici mutuo inter nos
Although at-every time highest zeal of-service mutually between us
certatim constiterunt pro nostra inter nos familiaritate
in-rivalry have-stood in-accordance-with our between us friendship

et proinde diligenter ab utroque conservata sunt, tamen non
and accordingly carefully by each kept have-been still not
dubito in tanto et tam repentino motu rei p. quin
I-doubt in so-great and so sudden upheaval of-the-thing public but-that
non nulla de me falsis rumoribus a meis obtrectatoribus me
not none about me by-false rumors by my detractors of-me
indigna ad te delata sint, quae tuum animum magno opere
unworthy to you reported have-been which your mind in-great measure
moverent pro tuo amore in rem p. Ea te
might-move in-accordance-with your love toward the-thing public Them that-you
moderate accepisse neque temere credendum iudicasse a
calmly to-have-received nor rashly to-be-believed to-have-judged by
meis procuratoribus certior sum factus. Quae mihi, ut
my agents more-certain I-have been-made Which to-me as
debent, gratissima sunt; memini enim et illa superiora, quae
they-ought most-pleasing are I-remember for also those earlier-things which
abs tua voluntate profecta sunt ad meam dignitatem augendam
from your goodwill proceeded have to my dignity increasing
et ornandam, quae perpetuo animo meo fixa manebunt.
and adorning which forever in-mind my fixed will-remain
Abs te, mi Cicero, magno opere peto, si meam vitam, 4
From you my Cicero in-great measure I-ask if my life
studium diligentissime superioribus temporibus in re p.
zeal most-diligently in-earlier times in the-thing public
administranda, quae Lepido digna sunt, perspecta habes, ut
administering which of-Lepidus worthy are seen you-have that
paria aut eo ampliora reliquo tempore exspectes
equal-things or by-so-much greater in-the-remaining time you-expect
et proinde tua auctoritate me tuendum existimes, quo
and accordingly by-your authority me to-be-protected you-judge whereby

tibi plura tuo merito debeo. Vale. D. xi K.
to-you more by-your desert I-owe Farewell Dated eleventh before-the-Kalends
Iun. ex castris ex Ponte Argenteo.
of-June from camp from Bridge Argenteus

X.35 · LEPIDUS TO THE SENATE

Lepidus calls gods and men to witness his loyalty to the republic, which he would soon have proved had fortune not wrested his plan from him: his whole army mutinied in favor of sparing citizens and of peace, and forced him to take up the cause of so many Romans' safety. He begs the senate to set aside private grudges and not to count his and his army's mercy in civil strife as a crime.

M. Lepidus imp. iter. pont. max. s. d.
Marcus Lepidus imperator for-the-second-time pontifex maximus greeting says
pr. tr. pl. senatui populo plebique Romanae.
to-the-praetors tribunes of-the-plebs senate people and-commons Roman
1 S. v. liberique vestri v. b. e. e. q. v.
If you-are-well and-children your are-well well it-is I also am-well
Deos hominesque testor, p. c., qua mente
The-gods and-men I-call-to-witness fathers enrolled with-what mind
et quo animo semper in rem p. fuerim et
and with-what spirit always toward the-thing public I-have-been and
quam nihil antiquius communi salute ac libertate
how nothing more-important than-the-common safety and liberty
iudicarim; quod vobis brevi probassem, nisi mihi fortuna
I-have-judged which to-you shortly I-would-have-proved unless from-me fortune
proprium consilium extorsisset. Nam exercitus cunctus
my-own plan had-wrested For the-army whole
consuetudinem suam in civibus conservandis communique
habit its-own in citizens preserving and-the-common

pace seditione facta retinuit meque tantae multitudinis
peace with-mutiny made has-kept and-me of-so-great a-multitude
civium Romanorum salutis atque incolumitatis causam
of-citizens Roman of-the-safety and well-being the-cause
suscipere, ut vere dicam, coegit.
to-take-up that truly I-may-say has-forced
In qua re ego vos, p. c., oro atque obsecro ut 2
In which matter I you fathers enrolled beg and beseech that
privatis offensionibus omissis summae rei p. consulatis
with-private offenses dropped for-the-supreme thing public you-consult
neve misericordiam nostram exercitusque nostri in civili
nor compassion our and-of-the-army our in civil
dissensione sceleris loco ponatis. Quod si salutis
strife of-crime in-the-place put But if of-the-safety
omnium ac dignitatis rationem habueritis, melius et
of-all and dignity account you-will-have-taken better both
vobis et rei p. consuletis. D. iii Kal.
for-yourselves and for-the-thing public you-will-consult Dated third before-the-Kalends
Iun. a Ponte Argenteo.
of-June from Bridge Argenteus