

Book XII.
Title XVIII.

Concerning provosts (praepositi) of the Baths.
(De praepositis labarum.)

12.18.1. Emperors Honorarius and Theodosius to Manaxious, Praetorian Prefect.

Those who are promoted by use to the position of provosts of the standards (labarum), shall have the rank of clarissimus (honorable) among the specially chosen senators, and will be considered as exconsulars. For those who receive lustre by being at our side, are worthy of exemption.

Given at Constantinople November 11 (416).

C. Th. 6.25.1.

Note.

The term "labarum" or "laborum" was used to designate the imperial standards, carried in the army. Sozomen, 1 Hist. Ecc. 4, relates that Constantine the Great, amazed at the prophecies concerning Christ, sent "for some skillful artisans, and commanded them to remodel the standard called by the Romans labarum, to convert it into a representation of the cross, and to adorn it with gold and precious stones." Eusebius relates that there were fifty men chosen, it seems, from the domestics and protectors, to carry and protect the standard, the chief of whom, as shown by this law, was of honorable rank, just as the first ten among the protectors and domestics (C. 12.17.2), and he was among the allectos, literally "chosen," of the same rank as a consular (governor of a province and not to be mistaken for consul), but without the burdens of becoming a praetor, who was required to spend a great deal of money for his honor by giving shows, or contribute toward public works. Cujacius and Gothofredus on this law. Bury, 1 Hist. Later Roman Empire 19; note C. 12.10.2.