

Book XII.
Title XXVII.

Concerning the quartering masters.
(De mensoribus.)

12.27.1. Emperors Honorius and Theodosius to Aemilianus, Master of Offices.

The chief (primicerius) of the quartering masters, shall, upon completion of his service of two years, be selected as an imperial messenger (agentes in rebus), the last in rank in that service.

Given at Ancyra July 23 (405).

C. Th. 6.34.1.

Note.

Officers and soldiers were billeted or quartered in houses of the inhabitants and districts through which they passed. That was true also with the emperor and his suite on a journey. The duty to grant quarters to these people was a liturgy owing by the people, though some exemptions were granted. The public servants who saw that the proper quarters were provided were the menses, or metatores, quartermasters - or if the word may be permitted to be used, and to express the meaning more clearly, quartering-masters. They are mentioned in the Register of Dignities in the Orient 11, 12, and evidently had a special bureau or department, presided over by a chief (primicerius), who served for two years. Upon completion of his services, he was promoted to become a member of the imperial messengers (agentes in rebus), mentioned in C. 12.20. The subject of quartering is more fully considered at C. 12.40. The quartering masters were subordinates of the master of offices.