

Book XII.
Title IV.

Concerning the equality in dignity of the praetorian prefect, the prefect of the city, and the master of the soldiers.

(De praefectis praetorio sive urbis et magistris militum in dignitatibus exaequandis.)

12.4.1. Emperors Valentinian, Valens and Gratian to Ampelius, Prefect of the City.

We deem the prefect of the city, the praetorian prefect, and the masters of cavalry and infantry, to be equal in rank, and when they have retired to private life, we want the person who was first promoted and first received his letters-patent, to take precedence over the others.

Given July 5 acc. September 3 (372).

C. Th. 6.7.1.

12.4.2. Emperors Gratian, Valentinian and Theodosius to Restutus, Prefect of the City.

Whoever became and officiate as master of cavalry and infantry before another entered upon a prefecture shall, after retirement to private life and relinquishment of his post of honor, take precedence over exprefects promoted (after) him. Persons, therefore, promoted first shall have the more prominent seat and the more distinguished place, and the right to give his opinion and speak first shall be given to him who was first in acquiring the splendor of his magistracy.

Given at Thessalonica June 24 (380).

C. Th. 6.7.2.

Note.

The purport of these two laws is similar, namely that the illustrious officers mentioned should be equal in rank, except that precedence should be given, when they retired to private life, to those who held their office first. Thus a former master of the soldiers, who was such before someone else was a praetorian prefect, took precedence over the latter. As to precedence among persons of illustrious rank, see C. 12.8. As to more details concerning the officers here mentioned, see C. 1.25-29.