

Book XII.
Title LVIII (LIX).

Concerning the apparitors of the prefect of Food Supplies.
(De apparitoribus praefecti annonae.)

12.58.1. Emperors Valens, Gratian and Valentinian to Rufinus, Praetorian Prefect.

The apparitors of the city prefecture shall not interfere with the apparitors of food supplies, their zeal shall not be mingled, but the praefecture of food supplies shall use its own apparitors.

Given July 13 (376).

12.58.2. Emperors Arcadius and Honorius to Messala, Praetorian Prefect.

The prefect of food supply shall collect the tribute pertaining to his office through collectors, and, together with his official staff will be liable, if he shall not have shown that the exaction was made so as to obtain the tribute.

399 A.D.

Note.

We saw at C. 11.23.25 that free distribution of bread, and at time of other supplies, was made at Rome, Constantinople and Alexandria, and at times in other cities. The office of prefect of food supplies was, therefore, very important in these cities. Cities that had no such prefect had curators. The prefect of food supplies was a subordinate of the city prefect. He had, in Rome at least, a separate apartment with its own apparitors, as is stated in the instant law. He had jurisdiction over bakers and others who were required to bring in supplies to Rome. See C. 11.16 and 17; Cass., Var. 6.18. See further C. 1.44.

It is thought by some authors that there was no prefect of food supplies in Constantinople. Karlowa, 1868; 3 Bethmann-Hollweg 67. But C. 12.19.12, enacted by Anastasius, who commenced to rule in 491, and who never ruled over the Western Empire, specifically mentions a prefect of food supplies.