

Book IX.
Title XXIX.

Concerning the crime of sacrilege.
(De crimine sacrilegii.)

Bas. 60.45.17, et seq; Dig. 48.13.

9.29.1. Emperors Gratian, Valentinian and Theodosius.

Whosoever in ignorance disturbs, or through negligence violates or offends, the sanctity of the divine law, commits sacrilege.

Given at Thessalonica February 27 (380).

C. Th. 16.2.25.

Note.

C. 1.12.5 makes disturbance of a church assembly punishable with death. See also C. 1.12.7. An annotation to Bas. 60.45.17, which mentions this law, says that all heretics may be held guilty thereunder of the crime of sacrilege, unless there is some other special law that governs. That the law had originally a much more limited meaning is shown by Gothofredus. It is headed in the Theodosion Code: "Concerning the office of bishop in preaching the work of God," and was intended, according to Gothofredus, to provide that bishops must preach the true Catholic faith.

9.29.2. The same Emperors to Symmachus, City Prefect.

The will of the Emperor must not be disputed; it is like a sacrilege to doubt whether a party whom the emperor has appointed is worthy.

Given at Milan December 28 (384).

C. Th. 1.6.9.

9.29.3. The same Emperors and Arcadius to Eutropius, Praetorian Prefect.

No one must think that, without committing the crime of sacrilege, he may ask for the position of governor of the province in which he is a resident and citizen, unless the emperor grants that privilege to anyone voluntarily by his imperial word.

Given July 17 (385).

Note.

To the same effect is C. 1.41.1.