

Novel 31.

Concerning the organization of the four governorships of Armenia.
(De description quattuor praesidum Armeniae.)

Emperor Justinian Augustus to Johannes, glorious Praetorian Prefect of the Orient
the second time, ex-consul and patrician.

Preface. When things in disorder and chaos are reduced to order and are well arranged, they will appear to be entirely different, and fine where they were bad, elegant where they were inelegant, and in order and well regulated where they were in disorder and confusion. As we have found defects in this respect in Armenia, we have deemed it best to reduce it to a harmonious whole and give it strength and order by a proper organization.

c. 1. We, accordingly, divide Armenia into four parts; one of these is in the interior, of which the city, formerly known as Bazanis or as Leontapolis is the metropolis and which now bears our name (Justinianea). We have honored this district with a proconsulship, which was entrusted to the reign of the magnificent Acacius, whom we made a worshipful magistrate and upon whom we conferred everything becoming to a proconsul; for we decorated him with the proconsular robe and directed that he should have everything incident to that honor. We gave him the cities of Theodosiapolis, which he also previously had, and Satala, Nicopolis and Colonia, taken from what formerly was anterior Armenia, and also Trapezunta and Cerasunta, taken from what was formerly called Pontus Palemoniacus, taking some of these cities from the president, others from the moderator of the province, and establish this (proconsular) district to consist of the seven cities and the surrounding territories thereof. **1.** We establish the Second Armenia, formerly called the First, with Sebastia as its capital, and give it Sebastopolis, which also formerly belonged to it, and Comana out of the former Pontus Palemoniacus, and Zela out of Helenopolis and Brisa, so that this province shall contain five cities. The form of government, heretofore under a president, shall remain the same, without increasing the rank of that official, but leaving it as it was. **2.** We also establish the Third Armenia, which heretofore was the second, of which Melitene, an ancient and famous city, is the capital, in a fine region and with a fine climate, not far from the river Euphrates. We deem it best to increase this province, establish a magistracy of worshipful rank, giving its occupant the name of Justinian count, with a salary of 700 solidi, and to his staff a salary of 60 solidi, and also giving this official everything appropriate to such office. His apparitors formerly called taxeotae, must perform the same duties as heretofore and must pay special attention to the collection of taxes. Their name shall be changed to that of the count's apparitors (comitiani), but they must observe the same rules as when known as taxeotae. This province shall have the cities of Arca and Arbissus and Ariarathia and the second Comana, also called Chrysin, and Cucusus, cities which were also formerly part of it when it contained six cities. **3.** We also establish the Fourth Armenia, a district not formerly

reduced to a provincial form, but was a collection of nations of various foreign names, known as Tzophanene, Anzetene or Tzophane and Asthianene, also called Balabitenne, and ruled by satraps—the name of a magistrate not Roman and not known to our ancestors, but was introduced from a foreign country. So we also give that district a civil administration, appoint a civil magistrate and put the city of Martyropolis and the military camp of Citharizon under his jurisdiction. The province shall have one of the ordinary magistrates, and shall be a consular province. So, while there are four Armenias, two of them have governors of worshipful rank, the proconsul and count, the former governing the First Armenia, the Count of the Third Armenia. The Second and Fourth Armenias shall have ordinary governors. And as we have earnestly striven that appeals involving less than 500 solidi should not be sent to this city, but should be taken before the nearest magistrate of worshipful rank, we also provide here, that appeals of that character, taken from the Second Armenia, that is from Sebastia, shall be taken to the magistrate of the First Armenia, that is to the proconsul, and those from the Fourth Armenia shall be taken to the count of the Fourth Armenia, that is to say, the magistrate who resides in Militene.

c. 2. Having made these provisions, we think it proper also that the government of the Third Armenia should be in the hands of an eminent man who has already been in our service and is able to cope with the difficulties and the magnitude of the office. And since we find that Thomas, a splendid man, has already performed the functions of a magistrate in Armenia, that he has served and is serving us uprightly, we promote him to this office. He shall be at the head of this province in conformity with the organization established by us. He shall also look after other matters with which we may charge him by special orders (commanitoria), either in the province, which we put in his charge, or in other places, as we have already done by special imperial orders relating to many different matters which may suitably be carried into effect by him also in other places. **1.** We want affairs relating to the priesthood, as we have often stated, to remain as they are. No changes or innovations shall be made as to the rights of metropolitans or in connection with ordinations, but the persons who formerly ordained, shall also now have the power of ordination, the metropolitans retaining their rank (order of precedence) without any innovations made in respect thereto.

c. 3. It is, of course, well understood, that since we have made the Count of the Third Armenia not only a civil but also a military magistrate, he must necessarily be in control of the soldiers stationed there, and must have authority, as in the case of a military officer, to call them in his name, investigate and look after their supplies, and prosecute matters relating to them, if they are guilty of any offense. He must not permit soldiers to oppress our subjects, and if they are guilty of grave crimes, must try them in criminal causes though they are soldiers, and he has a right (in a word) to do everything that military officers are authorized to do. And as we have given the Count of Isauria and of the Pactatian Phrygia and the praetors of Lycaonia and of Pisidia and of Thrace, control over military troops, so the count of the third Armenia shall not only administer civil affairs, but he shall also have military power

and authority, and shall be obeyed not only by soldiers but also by civilians, since he governs and attends to all matters as one magistrate (with combined powers). He must take special care that no crime is committed in his province which escapes proper punishment, and no one in the province, whether a civilian, a soldier or person connected with the imperial domain is exempt from his authority. For we want perpetual harmony to be maintained among all our subjects, and do not want to introduce contempt for law by discrimination among individuals.

Epilogue. Your Sublimity will now and in the future observe these provisions, in view of the organization of the four Armenias, and especially of the Third Armenia, because of which the present law is made, so that everything is done (in connection with the collection of) the tribute ordered by us to be paid yearly, and assessed by special orders made by your co-workers (and transmitted to the province).
Given March 17, 536.