

Novel 33.

Emperor Justinian to Dominicus, illustrious
praetorian prefect of Illyria.

On account of the avarice of creditors, who, taking advantage of the distress of the times, took possession of the land of small farmers, detaining all of their property for a small loan of grain, we have enacted a law, which was first applied in Thrace and all of its provinces, but now also to the Illyrian provinces. We have also directed a copy of it to be attached to the present order, so that people in private station may not think that the law was enacted to apply only to them, and so that military men in high station may not consider that it is not applicable to them. In order, therefore, that Your Magnitude may know, that the law is general, applicable to provincials, soldiers and officials alike, without exception, we have directed it to be sent to Your Sublimity, and all military men must know that if they think that it is not necessary for them to obey it, they will be deprived of their girdle, and considered as people in private station, suffering also the penalties which we have set forth in the foregoing law.

Given June 15, 535.