

Book IV.
Title LX.

Concerning markets.
(De nundinis.)

4.60.1. Emperors Valentinian and Valens to Probus, Praetorian Prefect.

Persons who by ancient grant or by authority have received the right to hold fairs and markets shall enjoy the benefit there of such rescript upon condition that during the market and fair they shall not sue anyone on account of profits of traders (derived from the sale of goods), or charge for sales (of slaves)¹ or for the advantage and benefit of places temporarily occupied, or make trouble for any of those attending, on account of any private debt.

Note.

When these markets were held, it was necessary that people should be able to gather there without fear of being disturbed by suits and demands, for they might come from a long distance. Hence it was forbidden to those who held the fairs by the foregoing law to sue any of the traders who appeared, on account of any property offered for sale, or to make any private demands upon them, either for the places occupied at the fairs by the traders, or for any private debts. The privilege of using places at the market without compensation is mentioned at C. 12.46, where it is stated that veterans should not be compelled to pay anything for offering goods for sale at a market.

¹ [Blume] Cujas deals with this law at vol. 2:263; 9:367; 10:981. He places the terms “mercibus” and “venaliciis” on the same footing, the former relating to the sale of goods generally, the later to the sale of slaves.