

Book XII.
Title XIX.

Concerning the assistant masters (*proximi*) of the imperial bureaus, and the others who serve in the imperial bureaus.
(*De proximis sacrorum scriniorum ceterisque qui in sacris scriniis militant.*)

Headnote.

This title deals with the imperial bureaus of memorials, correspondence and appeal-cases, and arrangements. The latter had a count as its head; the first three a master, followed by a *proximus*, here called assistant master.¹ The work of these bureaus appears from some of the laws in this title and a note has been made at headnote to C. 12.9, which obviates any further note here. Title 9 should be read in connection with this title.

12.19.1. Emperors Gratian, Valentinian and Theodosius to Cynegius, Praetorian Prefect.

We grant to the assistant chiefs (*proximi*) of the bureaus of memorials, correspondence, appeal-cases and arrangements, the honor of vicars, so that they will be considered of the same rank as those who govern dioceses entrusted to them in place of prefects, from the time when the splendor of the position of chief is reached by them begins, having precedence over those who shall subsequently hold the position of vicar. And they need fear no wrong from exactions.

Given at Constantinople April 30 (386).

C. Th. 6.26.4.

Note.

The assistant masters (*proximi*) in the imperial bureaus received the title of worshipful (*spectibilis*) when they became such chiefs.² The precedence in rank was in accordance with the time when the title was conferred. See C. 12.5.1. Hence, the chiefs having the same title as vicars, took precedence over those who became vicars at a later period. Vicars were those who governed dioceses under the praetorian prefects. The chief of the bureau of arrangement was really called count instead of *proximus* as indicated in the instant law. See laws 4 and 8 of this title.

12.19.2. Emperors Valentinian, Theodosius to Arcadius, to Constantius, Praetorian Prefect.

The ordinary or worshipful judges shall not prevent those serving in our imperial bureaus from saluting them and shall even against their wish receive them to sit with

¹ This reflects penciled changes Blume made. He had first translated *proximus* as chief. In the margin he wrote: “? See title 9.”

² Blume neglected to change “chiefs” to “assistant masters” here and elsewhere below, as he had above. In law 4, for instance, he translates “*proximus*” as chief, and in law 5 he translates “*melloproximus*” as assistant chief. This may be explained by the fact that in the note to law 19 of this title, Blume writes “The man in active charge of the three learned bureaus was the *proximus*, assistant master, but actual chief.” Scott uses “Imperial secretaries.” See 7 [15] Scott 254.

them, and the chief (princeps) and assistant chief (cornicularius), and the chief, or cornicularius, or heads of the official staff may know, that three pounds of gold will be taken from their substance, if ingress to the council chambers of the judges should not be open to those who frequently come into our consistory, or if reverence should not be paid them or the right to sit with the judge should be denied.

Given at Treves November 8 (389).

C. Th. 6.26.5.

Note.

The right of salutation, which included or consisted mainly of the jus osculandi - right of kissing (or embracing), as may be seen by examining C. 12.17.1. So the right to sit with the judges was considered of importance. See also law 5 of this title, and note where an interpolation in the instant law is shown.

The chief and assistant chief here mentioned, were officers of the official staff of the judges mentioned.

12.19.3. Emperors Arcadius and Honorius to Claudius, City Prefect.

If those serving in the bureaus of the palace, that is, in that of memorials, of correspondence, of appeal-cases and of arrangements, decide to retire after a service of twenty years, they shall be among the specially chosen senators (inter allectos) with the rank of consular, and they may enjoy the honor of the rank customarily extended to exconsulars. Nor shall anyone enjoin or force any burden upon them, or separate them from the leisure granted them.

Given at Constantinople February 15 (396).

C. Th. 6.26.8.

See C. Th. 6.26.7.

Note.

The "specially-chosen" among the senators, the allecti, were mentioned in note to C. 12.18.1. They were exempt from the praetorship, which was a special favor.

12.19.4. Emperors Arcadius, Honorius and Theodosius to Ephiphanius, Prefect of the City.

We order that first of all those who belong to our sacred bureaus, that is those of memorials, of correspondence, of appeal-cases and of arrangements, shall be safe in their exemption from all "sordid" duties; they need fear no extra impost (superindictio); no tax on sales shall be demanded of them, and they are under obligation to pay only the tax under the ordinary tax levy. Their rank, acquired by labor, shall know no extraordinary burden (munus), and be free from the duty of payment of commutation money for recruits; those still in the active service in the bureaus, or who, through many years' labor have reached or obtained the honor of chief (proximus), or the countship of the first order of the bureau of arrangement, need furnish no horses or recruits. These privileges should be extended to their property. 1. And what clearly should be granted to all, should not be permitted to be lost by the addition of another honor. Hence those who by the favor of fortune have acquired additional ornaments of honor, shall nevertheless not lose the privileges obtained by their work in the bureaus.

Given at Ravenna October 15 (497).

C. Th. 2.26.14.

Note.

The exemption from liturgies on the part of masters of the imperial bureaus and of the chiefs (proximi) of the bureaus is considered in C. 12.9.1, according to which they were apparently exempt from all liturgies whatever, personal and patrimonial. The instant law relates also to others serving in these bureaus. Apparently the persons exempted therein were exempted from all imperial liturgies, since the law states that they should be liable only for taxes. Extraordinary and sordid liturgies are specially mentioned, as is true also of furnishing recruits and horses and commutation money therefor. These did not constitute all, though most of the liturgies, as outlined in headnote to C. 10.47. Still the intention seems to have been to make exemption complete. The point is not, however, free from doubt. See C. 10.23.1 and note. The persons were not, of course, liable for personal liturgies in cities, since their duties were inconsistent therewith. See also headnote to C. 10.48.³

12.19.5. Emperors Honorius and Theodosius to Faustinus, Praetorian Prefect.

We grant as a special favor that all employees in the bureaus of memorials, correspondence and appeal-cases, from the stenographers to assistant chiefs (melloproximi), shall have the rank and honor of clarissimi (honorable). And as the others, serving in the same bureaus, have, by law, been granted free access to the inner chamber of the ordinary judges and to sit with them, so those upon whom we have conferred the rank of honorable, as a reward for their service, shall have the same right to deference as those of worshipful rank, that is to say, they have the right of entrance to and seat in the inner chamber.

Given at Ravenna June 6 (413).

C. Th. 6.26.16.

Note.

As to the inner chamber of judges, see note C. 7.54.5. The chief of the imperial bureaus of memorials, correspondence and appeal cases was called proximus; the one next to him in rank was melloproximus, assistant chief. Then there were stenographers, but these, apparently, were not the lowest in rank. All of the employees from stenographers on to the assistant chief were by the instant law given the right to freely enter the inner chamber of judges of honorable and worshipful rank, and to sit with them.

Now this same right was by law 2 granted to all those that served in the bureaus, making this law superfluous. The explanation lies in the fact that law 2 of this title as originally enacted gave the employees in these bureaus the right only to enter the inner chamber of the ordinary judges, that is to say, those of honorable rank, and to sit with them, and gave no right to enter the inner chamber of the judges of worshipful rank and to sit with them, and the statement giving such right was an interpolation of the compilers of the Code.

³ Blume penciled in here: "Venalicium - sales tax - Cujas; 'forced sales' - Gothofredus. "Temonis injuria"--not translated - seems the same as next sentence. Is that right?"

12.19.6. The same Emperors to Eustathio, Quaestor and Helion, Master of Offices.

Those who in their regular order and by the deserts of their service have attained the rank of chief (proximus) in the bureaus of memorials, correspondence and appeal-cases, shall serve only one year in this office, instead of two years, as heretofore.

Given at Constantinople February 6 (416).

C. Th. 6.26.7.

12.19.7. Emperors Theodosius and Valentinian to Nomus, Master of Offices.

Everyone who serves in the imperial bureaus, shall have the rewards of his service, and all in these bureaus who are not part of the regulars, shall be selected in the place of the regulars who have died, according to the regular order of their grade, and shall follow the lowest in grade among the regulars; no one who is later in time of service shall corruptly seek (ambire) the place of anyone who has been in the service longer, unless, perchance, the former, upon comparison of the work of both, is adjudged to be the worthier by the statement under oath of the fifteen primates (first men) of the same bureau. 1. We want the foregoing provisions to apply aside from the sons of the chiefs. For each chief may prefer one of his sons who, though he has neglected his service, has precedence in time to one who is later in time, but who deserved precedence by reason of his service. 2. But we direct that the person appointed as a regular shall pay 250 solidi to the chief, and 25 or 15 solidi, according to the custom of each bureau, to the assistant chief (melloproximus) or aide (adjutor). 3. If the supernumerary, who should be put into the place of a regular, refuses the position to avoid payment of the money, then the next in order may pay it and obtain the place. If the next in order, or third, or any other number should give the same excuse, the opportunity, neglected by anyone, is open to the one succeeding him in regular order. 4. We do not, however, disturb the grads of those who do not wish to become a regular, and they shall have the opportunity which they previously failed to embrace, to pay the money and became a regular, whenever thereafter a place is open.

443-444?

Note.

It will be noted that there were regulars and supernumeraries connected with these bureaus. While positions among the regulars were not exactly sold, as was true in some other cases, in view of the fact that advancement was ordinarily required to be according to merit and in view of the fact that the right to take an advancement was limited to those in the service, nevertheless, they came very near being so, in view of the amounts of money which were required to be paid. See also law 11 of this title, which modifies the present law, providing that the assistant master should not receive the money here specified whenever one of the regulars died in office, but that the money should in such case go to heirs etc. As to sale of offices, see C. 8.13.27 note, and note to law 13 of this title, which shows that the positions of assistant to the quaestor were practically sold, though the purchasers were required to be taken from among the employees of the imperial bureaus.

12.19.8. The same Emperors to Nomus, Master of Offices.

The chiefs of the sacred bureaus, whom faithful daily industry and learning commend, and the count of the bureau of arrangements whose honesty and alacrity justly

deserve credit, shall be entitled, upon completion of their service to wear during life, the girdle of countship of our imperial consistory, reserving to them, in addition, the privileges already granted them. For those to whom the secrets of Our Piety are committed, are justly entitled to be adorned and decorated with the girdle of the above mentioned countship.

443-444?

Note.

The bureau of arrangements had no proximus (chief). The head of it was a count, who evidently ranked no higher than the assistant of the master of the other three bureaus. The differences was due to the fact that employment in the bureau of arrangements did not require any particular learning, while learning was required in the other bureaus, particularly on the part of the head men thereof.

For the consistory counts, see C. 12.10.

12.19.9. Emperor Leo to Patricius, Master of Offices.

Those who serve in our sacred bureaus, and who go away on a temporary leave of absence, before a summons is served upon them, shall, together with their wives and children, be exempt from being sued during their leave of absence. After completion of their service, they shall also be exempt from imposition of public and civic burdens. Their houses, too, in the provinces, shall be freed from the duty of quartering.⁴

12.19.10. The same Emperor to Hilarianus, Count, Master of Offices, and Patrician.

We direct that the regulars in the bureau of memorials shall be sixty-two, in the bureau of correspondence thirty-four, and in the bureau of appeal-cases also thirty-four. The number of copyists (antiquarii), employed in the bureau of memorials shall not be less than four. 1. The above mentioned employees in the bureaus (memoriales), shall not perform the duties of two offices, nor perform double duty in connection with documents, so that it may not happen that they appropriate several advantages to themselves, and leave nothing for anyone else.

Note.

The term "memoriales" was at times used to designate the employees in the three learned, imperial bureaus (1 Karlowa 837), and the term was doubtless used in that sense here. While two offices were forbidden to be held, this must be construed in connection with an employee in these bureaus to perform certain functions, which were allied.

12.19.11. Emperor Anastasius to Eusebius, Master of Offices.

If any regular in our sacred bureaus, that is to say, of memorials, arrangements, correspondence and appeal-cases, should be taken away from the light of day, his heirs, successors, children, or the creditors who made a loan to the deceased to be used for the purpose of obtaining a place among the regulars, shall, as consolation or assistance, receive from anyone, who, to fill a vacancy is taken from among the supernumeraries, to become the last ranking regular, the sum of money fixed in the imperial constitution of the Emperors Theodosius and Valentinian, of blessed memory, for the benefit and help of the chiefs (proximus); and if the inheritance or succession of the deceased has not been

⁴ [Blume] As to quartering, see C. 12.40.

entered upon or accepted, such persons, that is to say, the creditors - rights against others being preserved for them - and the children, agnates and cognates, shall, in like manner, receive, and are permitted to seek and claim this sum, not as an inheritance but as a privilege. This arrangement shall not be changed or violated by any scheme, particularly when the worshipful officiating chief of the bureau, when prevented by death from completing his term as assistant master, may, without diminution, transmit to his heirs and successors the compensation of the remaining time of his position as such assistant master.⁵

Note.

We saw at law 7 of this title, that the chief received a certain sum of money whenever an advancement took place from the supernumeraries to the regulars. That law was modified by the instant law, which provided that whenever one of the regulars died, the amount of money which under law 7 would go to the assistant master should go to the heirs, children, other relatives, or creditors.

12.19.12. The same Emperor to Celerus, Master of Offices.

We order that those serving in the imperial bureaus, and their parents, wives and children, shall answer criminal and civil complaints only upon order of Your Highness; besides their free and unfree serfs and slaves living in this city, shall enjoy the same benefits, being entrusted, for their appearance, to the care of the assistant (adjutor) of the worshipful chief or of one of the regulars (in the bureaus); and if any member of the bureaus (memorialis) shall be found in a province, he shall be released on his own bail, under oath (juratoriae cautioni), although he has no immovable property, and the slaves and tenants (on his property) belonging to him shall be entrusted to his good faith. 1. The measure of fees shall be reduced to a small quantity, and each of them shall give to the process-servers (exsecutores) assigned from among the imperial messengers, one solidus till the end of the suit and for entrance (appearance) in the tribunal of Your Magnitude in whatever manner made, two solidi, and to the stenographers (exceptores), or a copy of the proceedings, one half of one solidus; and if it happens that the suit is tried before an arbitrator, one solidus shall be paid to the referee himself and no more, and to the stenographers attending him, for their services as such, as well as for a copy of the proceedings or of a report or decision, a third part of a solidus; nor shall the officiating worshipful procurator (advocate) of the fisc, or the process-servers (exsecutores) who are required to render services in connection with suits, ask or demand anything. In the provincial tribunals the aforesaid persons shall pay half of the amount which we have fixed for the tribunal of Your Highness. If they should happen to have litigation concerning the civic food supply (annona civilis), or guardianship or curatorship or in connection with an injunction as to the erection of any structure (novi operis nuntiatio), before the higher tribunal (of the city prefect), then they must pay the same amount of fees which they are directed to pay before the tribunal of Your Eminence; but they shall not be compelled to pay in the tribunal of the honorable prefect of the food supply, or the procurator of the fisc of the magnificent city prefecture, or of the architects greater fees than those which have been fixed for arbitrators and for suits tried by them. 2. These provisions apply whether they conduct the litigation personally, or by procurators or

⁵ At the end of this manuscript volume, Blume wrote 12.19.11—*principum insertam?*”

defenders. The foregoing governs when they are summoned to appear by an order in writing. 3. If anyone of them is summoned by deposition⁶ or otherwise, he shall not be compelled to pay any fees to the bureau of the honorable aide (adjutor)⁷ or anyone else. 3a. All the privileges in which they are protected through previous ordinances of former emperors, shall hereafter be preserved for them - for those now serving or who shall hereafter be in the same service, as well as for those who have completed their service and have relinquished their office, or shall hereafter do so, leaving the place vacant, so that they, together with their wives and children, as well as their serfs and slaves, shall enjoy the advantages thereof. 4. And since we desire to preserve equality for the litigants in controversies in courts, their adversaries shall also enjoy the right in regard to outlays and expenses mentioned in the foregoing beneficent grant. 5. And so we decree that the devoted employees of the bureaus (memoriales) shall enjoy the foregoing privileges, not only in bringing an action, but also in answering an action brought by others against them. 6. And those who have completed their service and have relinquished their position as employees of the bureaus (memoriales), or shall hereafter do so, shall, though they prefer to establish their domicil in the provinces, nevertheless have the privileges granted them by the imperial law recently promulgated⁸ by Our Serenity, and enjoy the advantages and benefit thereof.

Note.

The imperial bureaus were under the master of offices, as is attested by the Register of Dignitaries. Hence suits in which they were engaged were tried before the master of offices, in accordance with the general rule stated in note C. 3.13.7, that the heads of the large departments of the government tried the cases in which their subordinates were interested. The master of offices frequently, referred the cases to someone else, as was the custom with all the various regular judges in the empire, as more fully stated in C. 3.3.

Some of the cases in which the members of the bureaus were interested were however under the jurisdiction of the city prefect, and not of the master of offices. These were cases involving the civic food supply, apparently the bread distributed gratuitously in the city of Constantinople, as stated in C. 11.24; cases involving guardianship or curatorship of minors and insane and other persons, and cases relating to erection of new structures - buildings. These cases might be referred respectively to the prefect of food supply, advocate of the fisc or architect. The law was enacted for the Eastern Roman Empire and seems to indicate that there was a prefect of food supply in Constantinople, as there was in Rome, contrary to what some of the authorities think. See note C. 12.58.1. The law fixes the rate of fees which were required to be paid in connection with cases tried before the master of offices. The fees in the court of the city prefect were

⁶ [Blume] This method is obscure. In German translation, it is "orally." That seems plausible. See C. 14 pr, h.t., and C. 12.29.4. Scott also has "deposition." See 7 [15] Scott 258.

⁷ [Blume] The aide, adjutor, here mentioned, doubtless was the aide in the bureau of the city prefect, and third in rank, following the chief (princeps) and cornicularius (assistant chief).

⁸ [Blume] This enactment is not extant.

fixed at the same rate. But if the cases were referred to someone else, the fees were smaller.

12.19.13. Emperor Justin to Proculus, Quaestor of the Imperial Palace.

We have learned that an imperial enactment long ago provided that the number of the devoted assistants of Your Magnitude should be of a definite number, and that no more should aspire to that name and work than twelve in the imperial bureau of memorials, seven each in both of the other bureaus, that is to say, in that of correspondence and of appeal-cases; but that the liberty taken in later times, by indulging ambitions beyond the limit set, has disturbed the service, and has let in a multitude, so that there is hardly any difference between the number of employees in the bureaus (memoriales), and the number of assistants (of the quaestor)⁹. 1. We ordain therefore that the fixed arrangement be reinstated and renewed, not that those in excess of the number of assistants contrary to the foregoing arrangement should be removed, but that in the meantime all others shall be forbidden to aspire to this name, so that by various ones passing out and leaving, the forbidden number may be decreased, and the legal number only remain; nor do we forbid the devoted assistants leaving the office, if they have been advanced to the grade of registrar (laterculensis) in the bureau of memorials, or have attained the second place (of melloproximus) in the two other bureaus, after which they would have been chosen as assistant masters (proximus),¹⁰ although the membership has not yet been reduced to its former number, to choose substitutes for themselves, who will (however) come after the others (in rank). 2. We have also believed it well to arrange a matter which is sustained by past examples and not inconsonant with justice, that those who are permitted to substitute someone for themselves as one of the assistants, should address a petition to the officiating illustrious quaestor, asking him to sign a statement containing the time, the name of the person, and the fact itself, that is to say, that the substituted person is permitted to serve among the assistants; and the assistants are to be arranged in the order in which the petitions are submitted, so that although he may be in a lower place on the register of the members of the bureaus, yet if he first commenced to serve as assistant, he shall occupy a superior rank as such, but an inferior rank as member of the bureaus, according to the order and situation in each place, an arrangement also followed in almost all the other offices.¹¹

Note.

The quaestor of the palace was one of the high functionaries of the empire and was of illustrious rank. C. 1.30. He was the legal adviser of the emperor and in a measure was what we might call the attorney general of the empire or minister of justice. He had no official staff of his own and depended for his assistants on others. The imperial bureaus were intimately connected with the work with which the emperor was closely associated, and it was accordingly proper that the quaestor should take his assistants from these bureaus. The number of these assistants had been fixed, 26 in all,

⁹ [Blume] The total number in the bureaus was 130 - C. 10 h.t. "Memoriales" in this sentence probably used for all the members of the three bureaus. See C. 1.23.7.

¹⁵ Pauly-Wissowa 657.

¹⁰ [Blume] Keeper of the register.

¹¹ [Blume] Repealed by Novel 35.

divided among and taken from the 130 employees in the three learned bureaus (C. 12.19.10), but had been increased beyond the number allowed by all. The instant law accordingly directed that the number should be reduced to that originally fixed by taking on no new assistants till that had been accomplished, reserving the right however, to those who had reached a certain rank to substitute someone in their place, notwithstanding the regulation, showing, of course, the fact that the places were for sale. While all the assistants were from the three bureaus mentioned, yet the position of assistant and that as member of the bureaus were kept separate and distinct, the rank under the quaestor and that in the bureaus depending on the length of service in each place.

The laterculum was a register in which the names of the various officials holding dignities were contained. There were two of them, the major and the minor. The former was kept by the tribunes of the notaries, the latter by the so-called laterculenses, employees in the bureau of memorials, but under the direction of the quaestor, as shown in C. 1.30.

This law also shows that the masters of the imperial bureaus were not considered the titular heads, but were in a measure separated from them - above them, taking their employees, however, from them. The man in active charge of the three learned bureaus was the proximus, assistant master, but actual chief.

12.19.14. The same Emperor to Tatianus, Master of Offices.

By this law we ordain, that if the assistants of the officiating magnificent quaestor of the palace should become involved in a criminal or civil accusation, a strict arrangement, consonant with law and honesty, shall be observed, so that if they are to be summoned without writing, it shall suffice (to commence the proceedings), that their name be orally designated by the summoner (*praecipientis ore*); but if one or more of the assistants, are to be sued in writing, then the record of the order for summons, designating only the person to be summoned, shall be sufficient for the proper beginning of the suit.¹²

1. And since it is better to follow approved examples than an improper custom, we order that the custom prevailing in the bureau of appeal-cases, shall also apply to the assistant of the bureau of memorials and of correspondence, namely that those who have leave of absence to go away, may live abroad without any diminution of their stipend or emoluments, and without (*minime*) being compelled to give to the officiating chief (*proximus*) or assistant (*melloproximus*) or to their assistants, anything from their own property, salary or stipends, by reason of such absence, although the time of leave of absence is beyond the first day of January and includes the festive day. 2. We also order that no other assistant shall by any corrupt solicitation be added to the present number, or after the diminution thereof, although reduced to the former number.

Note.

The first part of this law seems to require that an assistant of the quaestor should either be summoned orally, or in writing pursuant to an order made specifically and only

¹² At the end of this manuscript volume, Blume wrote: "12.19.14. pr (The quaestor had 26) were these all in all the bureaus? If not, should in 12.19.15.4 at end be 'in' or 'from' the bureaus?"

designating the person to be summoned - in other words, that no general order could be made the basis of summoning a particular person. Cujacius on this law.

It had evidently been the custom to pay something to the chief and assistant chief for leave of absence. That rule was applied when leave of absence was given to the soldiers. C. 12.37.16 and note. In the instant law the custom was abolished, so far as the employees in the imperial bureaus were concerned, even though the leave of absence extended over the first day of January - the day on which salaries were paid.

The last part of the law, that no further addition to the number of employees should be made, even after it was reduced to that fixed by law, was evidently designed to forbid such addition so long as the old members, in the number fixed, survived and were serving, and did not forbid new members being added when the number fell below that fixed by law. A similar provision is found toward the end of the next law.

12.19.15. Emperors Justin and Justinian to Tatianus, Master of Offices.

There are certain orders which we have made concerning the assistants of the officiating illustrious quaestor of our palace, by whom the quaestorial duties are performed. The first of these, made upon a supplication of the assistants themselves, directed that none should be taken from or added to the number existing at the time, when they addressed the petition to me, except that if one of them should reach the rank of registrator (*laterculensis*) in the bureau of memorials or the second place in the two other bureaus, that is, those of correspondence and appeal-cases, he should have the right, when leaving the service as assistant, to select in his place anyone he wants, who should take the last place among the assistants, although he might occupy a higher place as a member of the bureaus. 2. The other order was made by a pragmatic sanction, in which we directed, upon suggestion of Proculus, of worthy memory, that persons who by some fortuitous circumstances, would be unable to fill their place, for instance on account of old age, sickness or other unavoidable cause might substitute another in their place. This was suggested to us by Proculus, of most worthy memory, upon petition of the same assistants. 3. But at present, addressed by other members both of the bureau of memorial, as well as of the other two bureaus, those of correspondence, and of appeal-cases (*libellorum et cognitionum*), we learned that the diminution in the number of these assistants was hindered by the above mentioned pragmatic sanction and that in addition opportunity was in a manner introduced of the sale of the above mentioned places. 4. In order that this may not happen in the future, we sent the present ordinance to Your Magnitude, by which we order that those only shall be permitted, according to the prior rescript of Our Serenity, to choose others in their place, who have received either the rank or registrar (*laterculensis*) in the bureau of memorials or the second place in the other two bureaus, and that our second order made on this subject (as above mentioned), shall cease to have validity, and to none of the same assistants, except those reaching the foregoing rank, is granted the right to select a substitute, for any cause whatever, so that by this means the said assistants may be reduced to the ancient number, namely twelve in the imperial bureau of memorials and seven each in the other two, that is that of correspondence and of appeal-cases.¹³ 5. This, too, must be observed, that no other assistant may, by any corrupt solicitation, be added to the present number, now or after

¹³ See note 12 above.

reduction, even after they have been reduced to the former number. For since we have directed that no substitution shall be made, even for accidental causes, so much more should be forbid others to be added, so long as the older members remain. The other subjects of the former ordinance shall remain in force.

(527).