C. H. TURNER’S SERVICES TO LATIN LEXICOGRAPHY

The late Professor Turner of Oxford would have described himself as a Church historian. That he certainly was, but he was much more than that. He was a leading authority also on Western Canon Law, the Church Fathers, and the textual criticism of the New Testament, as well as a Latin paleographer of trained judgement and wide experience. In the course of an extensive study of Latin manuscripts of various date, of all dates in fact, down to A. D. 900 or 1000, he made an exact study not only of their scripts, but of the forms of Latin words and abbreviations in them. It is to the importance of his work in this particular, which might be so easily overlooked by the Latin philologist, that I wish to draw attention here.

As far back as October 1907¹ he gave a masterly study of the orthography of proper names in the manuscripts of the Ad Quirinum of S. Cyprian. In 1923 his remarks on certain Latin usages in the introduction to the Novum Testamentum Sancti Irenaei, pp. xxi-xxiv, were of very great importance. But far exceeding these for our purpose is the value of the

abundant evidence for Latin spelling and abbreviation, as well as for the Latin vocabulary in general, contained in the greatest of all his works, his *Ecclesiae Occidentalis Monumenta Iuris Antiquissima*, of which the first part appeared at Oxford in 1899 and the sixth and last in 1930, about three months before his lamented death, and it is from this last part that I would especially derive illustrations of the truth of my contention, though, indeed, some of the *anecdota* in earlier parts, which he sedulously indexed, are in no way of inferior importance to this last part.

Its subjects are the Council of Serdica (usually, but wrongly called Sardica) and the *Gesta de nomine Apiarii*. The first page by itself furnishes dated evidence for the spellings of words like *provincia* and derivatives, *appellatio*, and for the abbreviations of words like *episcopus* and *diaconus*, and this page is typical of the whole six parts of the work. But he was not content to register such things with practically faultless accuracy. It is his practice, at intervals, to deal with lexicographical material in a most comprehensive way. On page 488 are discussed the word *canalis* and various expressions of interest like *religiosissimus imperator*, *beatus Augustus*, *palatium*, *comitatus*, *beatissimus*, *sanctissimus*, *sanctitas ustra*, *prouidentia* (*or prudentia* ustra), *ecclesiasticus*, *dominicum*, *exterminare*. On page 532 it is proved that the bishop of Córdoba, commonly referred to under Greek influence, as *Hosius*, was really named *Ossius*, and on p. 533, besides the spelling of *Serdica* already referred to, a compendious treatment of the abbreviations found in the Serdican canons is given. On p. 593 there are valuable notes on *consacerdos*, *coepiscopus*, *conpresbyter* and on the spelling of the name *Augustinus* (*Agustinus*). On p. 594 ff. there are detailed notes on the spellings of the names of cities in North Africa, very useful evidence to compare with the forms which the brilliant archaeological research of French scholars has revealed. On p. 608 there is a note on the word *papa*.

Much of the continuation of this work was left in type at the author's death, and it is greatly to be hoped that this will be published. But whether or no, I hope I have written enough to show that the Latin philologist will neglect this great work at his peril. It must be minutely indexed in his interests.

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