

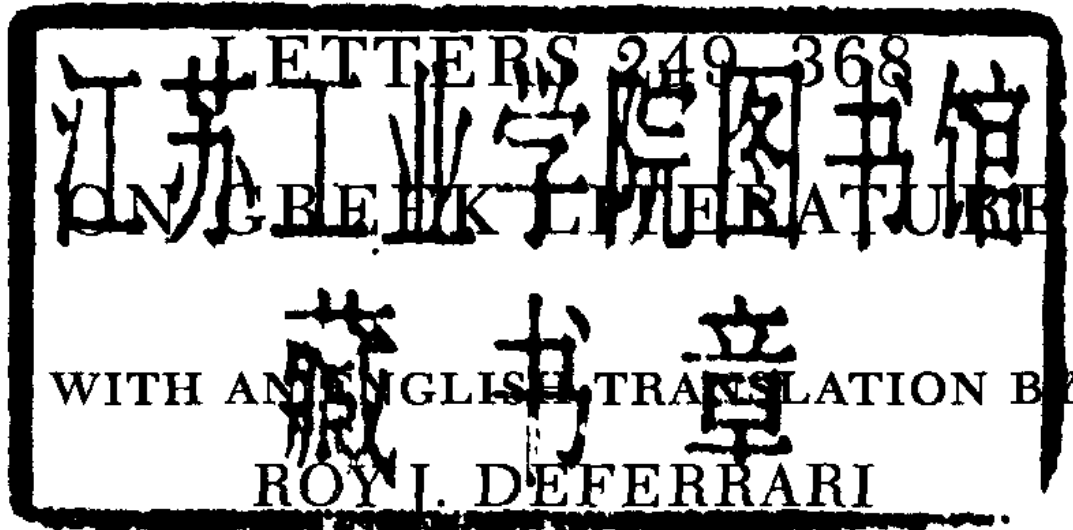
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BASIL
LETTERS 249–368
ON GREEK LITERATURE



Translated by
ROY J. DEFERRARI

BASIL



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PREFATORY NOTE

THE present volume marks the fourth and last of the collected Letters of St. Basil in the Loeb Classical Library and includes Letters CCXLIX to CCCLXVIII. Of these, the last two are here added to the corpus of Basil's letters for the first time. Furthermore, many of the later letters of this volume appear here with an English translation for the first time. Most of the *dubia* and *spuria* are included in this volume, and wherever possible I have attempted to summarize the best scholarly opinion regarding their authenticity and to add such new evidence as I have been able to find.

The text of this fourth volume has been treated exactly as that of the second and third volumes. Letters CCXLIX to CCCLVI, exclusive of Letter CCCII, appear in the MS. known as Coisslinianus 237 (sig. = E), and do not occur in any of the other MSS. collated by me. Letters CCCII and CCCLVII to CCCLXVIII appear in no MS. collated by me. Accordingly, as in the preceding two volumes, the readings from E are my own, all others have been taken over from the Benedictine and Migne editions, and the sigla used in these editions, though often unique, have been kept in all cases. As hitherto, by *editi antiqui* I mean all editions prior to the Benedictine; by *editi* all existing editions.

PREFATORY NOTE

For assistance in bringing the present volume to completion I wish to thank the members of my Greek Seminar during the academic years of 1928-29 and 1929-30. I wish to thank also Sister M. J. Annette of the Sisters of Mercy of Hartford, Connecticut, for very valuable assistance in preparing the MS. for the printer. At the completion of my entire task of four volumes, it would be ungrateful indeed did I not mention the unceasing patience and scholarly contributions throughout of Professor Edward Capps, one of the editors of the Loeb Classical Library.

ROY J. DEFERRARI.

THE BASIL-LIBANIUS CORRESPONDENCE

(LETTERS CCCXXXV to CCCLIX)

LIBANIUS was the greatest of the pagan rhetoricians of the fourth century. Basil was for a short period one of his pupils; and Libanius is said to have possessed great admiration for the extraordinary intelligence and virtue of the young Christian. Twenty-five letters, CCCXXXV to CCCLIX, in the Benedictine edition of Basil's letters have been ascribed to a correspondence between these two men. The authenticity of this correspondence, however, has been the subject of much dispute.

The general status of the question to-day may be summarized as follows: Letters CCCXXXVI to CCCXLIII, and Letters CCCXLV and CCCLVIII, are authentic because of their position in the manuscript tradition and because of the historical information contained therein; Letters CCCXLIV and CCCXLVI are authentic because of their position next to Letter CCCXLV in the Aa family, and because of the relation of Letter CCCXLIV to Letter CCCXLIII; Letters CCCXLVII to CCCLVI are spurious in spite of the mention of the speech of Libanius in several of them, since they are ignored in the best manuscripts both of Basil and Libanius,

THE BASIL-LIBANIUS CORRESPONDENCE

and since their content and style are quite unworthy of the two men; Letters CCCLVII and CCCLIX are spurious or at least very doubtful, because they are lacking in all the Basilian manuscripts and no positive reason exists for considering them authentic.

The entire question, however, needs to be studied anew, especially in the light of our new knowledge of the manuscript tradition and of our better understanding of St. Basil's language.

The following works will give the reader a history of the controversy and a detailed presentation of the *status* of the question :

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COLLECTED LETTERS OF
SAINT BASIL

ΤΟΥ ΕΝ ΑΓΙΟΙΣ ΠΑΤΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΑΙ

CCXLIX

Ἀνεπίγραφος, ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ εὐλαβεῖ

Συγχαίρω τῷ ἀδελφῷ τῷδε, καὶ τῶν ἐνταῦθα
θορύβων ἀπαλλασσομένῳ, καὶ τὴν σὴν εὐλάβειαν
καταλαμβάνοντι. ἀγαθὸν γὰρ αὐτῷ ἐφόδιον
πρὸς τὸν ἐφεξῆς αἰῶνα, τὴν μετὰ τῶν φοβουμένων
τὸν Κύριον ἀγαθὴν διαγωγὴν, ἐξελέξατο. ὃν καὶ
παρατιθέμεθά σου τῇ τιμιότητι, καὶ παρακαλῶ
δι' αὐτοῦ εὐχεσθαι ὑπὲρ τῆς ἐλσεινῆς ἡμῶν ζωῆς,
ἵνα, ῥυσθέντες τῶν πειρασμῶν τούτων, ἀρξώμεθα¹
δουλεύειν τῷ Κυρίῳ κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιον.

CCL

Πατροφίλῳ, ἐπισκόπῳ τῆς ἐν Αἰγείᾳ ἐκκλησίας

Ὅψὲ μὲν ἐδεξάμην τὰς ἐπὶ τοῖς προτέροις γράμ-
μασιν ἀποκρίσεις, ἐδεξάμην δ' οὖν ὅμως² διὰ τοῦ

¹ ἀξιώμεθα editi antiqui.

² om. E.

¹ Written in 376.

² Written in the summer of 376. Cf. Loofs, p. 8, note 2. Aegae, a city of Cilicia, modern Ayas. Cf. Lucan, 3. 227: *Mallos, et extremae resonant navalibus Aegae*. "Mallus and remote Aegae resound with dockyards." There were also towns of the same name in Achaia, Macedonia, Euboea, and Aeolia.

COLLECTED LETTERS OF SAINT BASIL

LETTER CCXLIX

WITHOUT ADDRESS, WITH REFERENCE TO A PIOUS MAN ¹

I CONGRATULATE this brother, both for freeing himself from the tumults of this world and for visiting your Reverence. For a good viaticum has he chosen for himself to the future world—a goodly life with those who fear the Lord. And him do we commend to your Honour, and I urge you through him to pray for our miserable life, that being freed from these present trials we may begin to serve the Lord according to the Gospel.

LETTER CCL

TO PATROPHILUS, BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF AEGAE ²

LATE indeed did I receive the answers to my former letters, but nevertheless I did receive them through

During the controversy between Eustathius, Bishop of Sebaste, and St. Basil, their mutual friend, Patrophilus, Bishop of Aegae, was troubled about his relations with the two opposing bishops. For some time he pursued the policy of silence with respect to Basil. When finally persuaded to resume his correspondence with Basil, he addressed himself to him on behalf of Eustathius. Basil replied with Letter CCXLV, wherein he laments the errors of Eustathius and asks