

you were singled out from the crowd, and even summoned to an audience? But after giving me an account of affairs which concern others, why were you silent as to your own, assured as you are that I interest myself in them with as much zeal as if they immediately related to myself. Accordingly, as I am extremely afraid you will have no employment to keep you warm in your winter quarters, I would by all means advise you to lay in a sufficient quantity of fuel. Both Mucius and Manilius have given their opinions to the same purpose, especially as your regimentals, they apprehend, will scarce be ready soon enough to secure you against the approaching cold. We hear, however, there has been hot work in your part of the world, which somewhat alarmed me for your safety; but I comforted myself with considering that you are not altogether so desperate a soldier as you are a lawyer. It is wonderful consolation indeed to your friends to be assured that your passions are not an overmatch for your prudence. Thus, as much as I know you love the water, you would not venture, I find, to cross it with Caesar; and though nothing could keep you from the combats in Rome, you were much too wise I perceive to attend them in Britain."

These extracts offer a very fair example of Cicero's jocose style of writing.

Cicero was a man of the widest culture and the most catholic of tastes and not only was he a great collector of books and manuscripts but he spent lavishly on statuary and works of art with which he loved to decorate his numerous villas. We have rather an amusing letter written by him to Fabius Fallus a man whom he had evidently commissioned to purchase some statues for him. This Callus had evidently bought not only the wrong things

but had also paid too high a price and here is an extract from what Cicero wrote him:

"I am sensible indeed, that in the zeal of your friendship you have purchased for me what pleased your own eye and what you imagined would be worthy of mine; and I always considered you a man of the most judicious and elegant taste in every kind. Nevertheless, I shall be extremely glad if Damasippus should continue in the resolution of taking these figures off my hands for, to own the plain truth, I have no sort of inclination to them myself. As you were not apprised of my intentions, you have actually consented to pay more for these four or five pieces of sculpture than I would have given for all the statues in the universe. You compare the images of the priestesses of Baechus to those of the Muses which I bought at Metalus. But surely, my friend, the two instances are by no means parallel. For, in the first place, the Muses themselves would have condemned me if I had ever rated them at so extravagant a price; and in the next I purchased the figures you mention as bearing an allusion to my studies, and affording a suitable ornament to my library. But where can I, with any propriety, place these bacchanals? . . . and would it not be absurd enough, my good friend, if I, who upon all occasions, should erect a statue of the god of war. (One of the statues was a Mars)."

The humorous kindly strain of this letter bears witness to the good feeling and courtesy of Cicero who is careful not to hurt the feelings of his correspondent although he is evidently much vexed at the purchase he has made.

The kindly relationship existing between Cicero and his slaves is very evident throughout his correspondence.