

of pursuing expensive investigations; such, for instance, as made indispensable the purchase and collation of manuscripts. He furnished him with seven ready scribes, who were to relieve each other as his amanuenses, besides others to transcribe everything in a fair copy. Origen says of this friend, in one of his letters, "He who gave me credit for great diligence, and a great thirst after the divine word, has, by his own diligence and his own love of sacred science, convinced himself how much he was mistaken. He has so far outdone me, that I am in danger of not coming up to his requisitions. The collation of manuscripts leaves me no time to eat; and after meals I can neither go out nor enjoy a season of rest; but even at those times I am compelled to continue my philological investigations, and the correction of manuscripts. Even the night is not granted me for repose, but a great part of it is claimed for these philological inquiries. I will not mention the time from early in the morning till the ninth and sometimes the tenth hour of the day;* for all who take pleasure in such labors, employ those hours in the study of the divine word, and in reading."

He completed at Alexandria his commentaries on Genesis, the Psalms, the Lamentation of Jeremiah, (of which writings some fragments only remain) his five first *Tomes* on the gospel of John, his tract on the resurrection, his *Stromata*, and his work concerning principles. The work last mentioned derived great importance from the struggle which it called forth between opposite tendencies of the theological mind, and from the influence which it had on the fortunes of Origen and of his school. Platonic philosophy and doctrines of the Christian faith were then, still

* Till three or four o'clock, P.M., according to our reckoning.