

maxime respondentis, non numquam etiam lacessentis; vel quod
frangit adversarium, quod impedit, quod elevat, quod deterret,
quod refutat; vel quod ipsum oratorem politum esse hominem
significat, quod eruditum, quod urbanum, maximeque quod
tristitiam ac severitatem mitigat et relaxat odiosasque res saepe,
237 Quatenus autem sint ridicula tractanda oratori, perquam dili-
genter videndum est, id quod in quarto loco quaerendi po-
sueramus. Nam nec insignis improbitas et scelere iuncta nec
rursus miseria insignis agitata ridetur: facinorosos maiore quadam
vi quam ridiculi vulnerari volunt; miseros inludi nolunt, nisi se
59 ne temere in eos dicas, qui diliguntur. Haec igitur adhibenda
238 est primum in iocando moderatio, itaque ea facillime luduntur,
quae neque odio magno neque misericordia maxima digna sunt; 15
quam ob rem materies omnis ridiculorum est in eis vitiis, quae
sunt in vita hominum neque carorum neque calamitosorum
neque eorum, qui ob facinus ad supplicium rapiendi videntur;
239 eaque belle agitata ridentur. Est etiam deformitatis et corporis
vitiis satis bella materies ad iocandum; sed quaerimus idem, 20
quod in ceteris rebus maxime quaerendum est, quatenus; in quo

4. maximeque OPPS: maxime ω K.
vitiis EP.

16. in eis vitiis AHM²KS: in istis
19. eaque belle agitata ridentur del. Fr. Str.

1. respondentis... lacessentis: cp.
i. 5. 17.

2. frangit, etc. Wit 'breaks' the
force of an opponent's attack by turning
his serious charges into ridicule, 'ham-
pers him' by preventing him from pres-
sing on in the same line, 'disparages him'
by turning him into a laughing-stock and
thus robbing him of his *auctoritas*, 'deters
him' by showing the superior acuteness
of his antagonist, 'refutes him' by laugh-
ing away his accusations. Cp. Aquila
Rom. 26 'διασπυμός, elevatio vel irrisio,
ea figura est qua ludentes quae dicuntur
ab adversariis dissolvimus.' Quintilian
uses *elevare* with a like sense.

7. Quatenus: Cicero lays down rules
for the use of 'ridiculum' in Or. 26. 88.

9. nec miseria... ridetur: Quint.
vi. 3. 28 'inhumana videri solet fortunae
insectatio.'

scelere iuncta: for the abl. cp. Roby,
§ 1216. This construction is limited to

the part. perf. and the gerundive. But
see App.

11. volunt, sc. 'homines.' Roby, §
1428.

12. caritati, § 206. For the abstract
used as a kind of collective, cp. i. 53. 228:
'illorum orbitati' (note).

19. belle, 'neatly,' i. § 247 (note).

deformitatis et corporis vitiis:
Cicero's practice in his speeches, and
many of the witticisms quoted in the
following chapters, show how widely his
canons of good taste differed from those
now universally recognized. His speeches
'in Vatinius' and 'in Pisonem' especi-
ally abound with the coarsest personal
abuse.

21. quatenus: Acad. ii. 29. 92 'rerum
natura nullam nobis dedit cognitionem
finium, ut ulla in re statuere possimus
quatenus.' Or. 21. 73 'in omnibusque
rebus videndum est quatenus.'

non modo illud praecipitur, ne quid insulse, sed etiam, si quid
perridicule possis, vitandum est oratori utrumque, ne aut scurrilis
iocus sit aut mimicus. Quae cuius modi sint facilius iam intelle-
gemus, cum ad ipsa ridiculorum genera venerimus.

5 Duo sunt enim genera facetiarum, quorum alterum re tractatur,
alterum dicto: re, si quando quid tamquam aliqua fabella narratur, 240
ut olim tu, Crasse, in Memmium, comedisse eum lacertum Largi,
cum esset cum eo Tarracinae de amicula rixatus: salsa, ac tamen
a te ipso ficta narratio; addidisti clausulam: tota Tarracina tum
10 omnibus in parietibus inscriptas fuisse litteras L.L.L.M.M.; cum
quaereres id quid esset, senem tibi quendam oppidanum dixisse:
'lacerat lacertum Largi mordax Memmius.' Perspicitis genus 241
hoc quam sit facetum, quam elegans, quam oratorium, sive habeas
vere quod narrare possis, quod tamen est mendaciunculis asper-
15 gendum, sive fingas. Est autem haec huius generis virtus, ut ita
facta demonstras, ut mores eius, de quo narres, ut sermo, ut voltus
omnes exprimantur, ut eis, qui audiunt, tum geri illa fierique
videantur. In re est item ridiculum, quod ex quadam depravata 242
imitatione sumi solet, ut idem Crassus: 'per tuam nobilitatem,

1. modo om. MK. quid om. MK. 4. venerimus PS cum M: veniemus
OP 5 K. 6. aliquae fabellae narrantur M Fr. 10. inscripta H: litteras
duo AH: litteras tria LLL duo MM 5: inscripta fuisse tria L duo M Fr. 11.
oppidanum incl. K: non habet A, sed videtur esse lacuna.

1. non modo illud, etc. The sen-
tence is irregular; 'vitandum est oratori
utrumque' is inserted for the sake of
clearness, but interrupts the construction.

3. mimicus, 'farical.' Or. 26. 88
'illud admonemus tamen, ridiculo sic
usurum oratorem, ut nec nimis frequenti,
ne scurrile sit, nec subobsceno, ne mimi-
cum.'

5. re tractatur, 'is represented by
means of some fact.' The phrase is bor-
rowed from the stage: cp. Reid on pro
Arch. 3.

6. fabella, 'anecdote.'

7. Memmium, the tribune of B.C. 111;
'vir acer et infensus potentiae nobilitatis'
(Sall. Jug. 27). Cicero describes him
(Brut. 36. 156) as 'orator mediocris, ac-
cusator acer atque acerbus' (cp. § 283).
Crassus may have been brought into
collision with him in his 'suasio legis
Serviliae' (Introd. p. 9); to ridicule the
ferocious character of the man, he in-
vented a story that M. had bitten the
arm of a man with whom he had
quarrelled about a mistress, and gave a

humorous confirmation of his story by
asserting that he had seen the walls of
the houses in Tarracina covered with the
letters L. L. L. M. M.: these were doubt-
less intended for an election placard, in
the abbreviated form of which the Pom-
peian graffiti supply many instances (cp.
Zangemeister, C. I. L. iv. Index, pp. 249 ff.);
and Harn. well suggests that the full form
may have been *Lege Laetus Lubens Merito
Memmium*: (although the only authori-
ties for L. L. M. seem to be dedications;
e.g. Wilmanns, 1005:) but Crassus as-
serted that an old townsman explained
them by an iambic trimeter describing this
assault.

8. rixatus: a verb used nowhere else
by Cicero: a *rixa* (also rare in Cic.) is
properly a quarrel that comes to blows,
a brawl: cp. Tac. Hist. i. 64 'iurgia pri-
mum, mox rixae.' Iuv. xv. 52.

14. mendaciunculis, 'fictitious em-
bellishments.'

18. depravata imitatione, 'caricature.'

19. per tuam nobilitatem: doubtless
a caricatured imitation of the way in

per vestram familiam! Quid aliud fuit, in quo contio rideret, nisi illa voltus et vocis imitatio? 'Per tuas statuas!' vero cum dixit et extento brachio paulum etiam de gestu addidit, vehementius risimus. Ex hoc genere est illa Rosciana imitatio senis:

'tibi ego, Antipho, has sero, inquit; seniumst, quom audio.'

Atqui ita est totum hoc ipso genere ridiculum, ut cautissime tractandum sit; mimorum est enim et ethologorum, si nimia est imitatio, sicut obscenitas. Orator surripiat oportet imitationem, ut is, qui audiet, cogitet plura, quam videat; praestet idem ingenuitatem et ruborem suum verborum turpitudine et rerum obscenitate

3. paulum AH: paululum s. Cp. C. F. W. Müller Cic. Orat. Vol. iii. ad p. 143, 4. 6. atqui PH monente Fleckeis. Krit. Misc. p. 26. atque KS. et AHFr. om. s.

which Domitius talked of his high birth: contio is then used in its proper sense for the popular meeting before which the censors attacked each other. To interpret it as referring to Brutus, as many editors do, would require us to put a forced and unexampled meaning upon *contio*, as the audience in the law court, before which Plancius was arraigned. Cp. *Introd.* p. 13.

5. *seniumst, quom audio.* It is best to take these words as part of the comic iambic trimeter. Roscius in acting the part of Antipho had to represent him as quoting a favourite saying of his father's, and in doing so imitated very amusingly the tone and voice of an old man. "'Tis for you I plant these trees, Antipho," says he. It is the peevishness of age, when I hear him.' The transferred meaning of *senium* 'annoyance, vexation,' is recognized by the grammarians, and would suit the passage well: cp. Nonius, p. 1 'senium est taedium et odium': Fest. p. 339 M; Charis. p. 195: but it is hard to believe that there is not a reference to a fretful old age also. Cp. Hor. Ep. i. 18. 47. Others, not so well, take 'seniumst, quom audio' as said by Caesar: 'it is old age itself (that seems to be speaking) when I hear him.' It is not probable that Caesar's comment would happen to complete exactly the trimeter.

6. *Atqui, etc.* 'Yet while this is in its very nature amusing (§ 245), it must be handled with great care.'

7. *ethologorum*, i. e. actors in farces, who depicted characters (*ἥθη*). The word is apparently only used here and below, § 244. For the 'mimes' cp. Mommsen, iv. 579-80: 'the artistic charm depended

wholly, as in the Atellana, on the portraiture of the manners of low and common life.' The *aretalogi* whom Ell. couples with these, were quite different, and were not actors at all. Cp. Mayor on Juv. xv. 16.

8. *sicut obscenitas*: Quint. vi. 3. 29 'oratori minime convenit distortus vultus gestusque, quae in mimis rideri solent: obscenitas vero non a verbis tantum abesse debet, sed etiam a significatione:' cp. § 252. *Obscenus* is one of the words (cp. i. § 98, note) in which the best established orthography is not that which is etymologically correct. While the good MSS. in Vergil (*Georg.* i. 470; *Aen.* iv. 455, Ribbeck), Horace (*Ep.* 5. 98; *Sat.* i. 2. 96; 8. 5; *Ep.* ii. 1. 127, Keller), Tacitus (*Ann.* xv. 37), and here give *obsceus*, it can hardly be doubted that the word is for *ob-scaev-nu-s*. (Fest. p. 201 'quom apud antiquos omnes fere obscaena dicta sint, quae mali ominis habebantur'). Corsen (i. 121. 328) and Brambach accept the old derivation from *caenum* 'filth.'

surripiat: from § 252 it would seem that this should have the sense 'suggest in passing:' and so most editors take it; but this is an unexampled meaning to give to the word. Unless Cic. is imitating the use of *κλέπτειν* it must mean rather 'should drop unnoticed,' 'whip away.' Some of Lord Beaconsfield's happiest parliamentary hits are said to have gained much force from a touch of mimicry.

9. *audiet*: for the tense cp. § 178.

praestet, 'vouch for.'

10. *ruborem* = 'pudorem,' not common in this transferred sense until later.

verborum turpitudine et rerum obscenitate: another instance of an abstract substantive with the genitive, where

vitanda. Ergo haec duo genera sunt eius ridiculi, quod in re positum est, quae sunt propria perpetuarum facetiarum, in quibus describuntur hominum mores et ita effinguntur, ut aut re narrata aliqua quales sint intellegantur aut imitatione breviter iniecta in aliquo insigni ad inridendum vitio reperiantur. In dicto autem ridiculum est id, quod verbi aut sententiae quodam acumine movetur; sed ut in illo superiore genere vel narrationis vel imitationis vitanda est mimorum et ethologorum similitudo, sic in hoc scurrilis oratori dicacitas magno opere fugienda est. Qui igitur distinguemus a Crasso, a Catulo, a ceteris familiarem vestrum Granium aut Vargulam amicum meum? Non mehercule in mentem mihi quidem venit: sunt enim dicaces; Granio quidem nemo dicacior. Hoc, opinor, primum, ne, quotienscumque potuerit dictum dici, necesse habeamus dicere. Pusillus testis processit. 'Licet' inquit 'rogare?' Philippus. Tum quaesitor

4. *breviter iniecta H: brevi periniecta A: legebatur brevi.*

we should rather use an adjective in agreement with a substantive: cp. § 237; de Off. iii. 29. 106 'in deformitate corporis' = 'in deformi corpore.' In de Off. i. 29. 104 we have the more common conjunction 'si rerum turpitudini adhibetur verborum obscenitas:' cp. § 236.

2. *perpetuarum facetiarum*, 'a continuous vein of humour.'

4. *in aliquo . . . reperiantur*, 'they are discovered to possess some striking and ridiculous failing.'

9. *scurrilis*: placed in a position of emphasis, because it is not *dicacitas*, but *scurrilis d.* which is to be avoided. In Cicero *scurra* never seems to retain the favourable sense of 'wit,' in which it is used by Plautus (e.g. Trin. 202, with Brix's note), and even by Catullus (xxii. 12, Ellis), but always carries a notion of blame with it.

11. *Granium*, a *praeco* by occupation: (Lucil. ap. Gell. iv. 17 'conicere in versus dictum praeconis volebam Grani'). Lucilius referred to an occasion on which Crassus during his tribuneship dined with him (Brut. 43. 160). Cp. ib. 46. 172 'Ego memini T. Tineam Placentinum, hominem facetissimum cum familiari nostro Q. Granio praecone dicacitate certare. Eon', inquit Brutus, de quo multa Lucilius? Isto ipso: sed Tineam non minus multa ridicule dicentem Granio obruebat nescio quo sapore vernaculo:' p. Planc. 14. 30

'ille [Granus] L. Crassi, ille M. Antonii voluntatem asperioribus facetiis saepe perstrinxit impune.' See below, §§ 254, 281, 282. In Ep. ad Fam. ix. 15. 2, Cicero uses the name almost proverbially: 'itaque, te [Paetus] cum video, omnes mihi Granios, omnes Lucilios, vere ut dicam Crassos quoque et Laelios videre videor.' Nothing is known of Vargula, except the joke in § 247.

12. *venit*: perf. not present. 'Really I have never thought of it before:' the form of expression seems chosen merely to retain the freedom of conversational discussion. Caesar goes on 'I should say, by this, in the first place, that we (orators) should not always consider it necessary to say a good thing whenever there is a chance.' I do not think it necessary with Sorof to insert *item* before 'dicaces:' the meaning required is rather 'for they are all witty.' The second distinction is given in § 247, where after a *résumé* of the first, Cicero adds 'et quod,' etc. = 'and also by the fact that,' etc.

15. *Philippus*, § 220. Cp. Brut. 47. 173 'erant ea in Philippo . . . summa libertas in oratione, multae facetiae: satis creber in reperiendis, solutus in explicandis sententiis: erat etiam . . . in altercando cum aliquo aculeo et maledicto facetus.'

quaesitor: the president of the court in a criminal case: 'Primer,' p. 88 ff.; Mommsen, Hist. i. 68, 81, 159; Röm.