

THE HOME OF THE PSEUDO-CYPRIANIC *DE
MONTIBUS SINA ET SION.*

IN the JOURNAL for July 1906 (vol. vii pp. 597 ff) Mr C. H. Turner argued, on the basis of a passage in the concluding chapter, that the work must have been written in Rome. The passage reads thus: 'exulans ad centesimum effugit' (Hartel, p. 118 l. 14), and Mr Turner says: 'to the hundredth milestone. Hundredth from where? Why, of course, from Rome. The hundredth milestone was the well-known limit of the jurisdiction of the Praefectus Urbi: and though I believe that at a later period traces may be found of a similar jurisdiction in relation to other Western cities, such as Milan and Carthage, *the reference would have been meaningless, at the date of the de montibus, for any other place than the capital*' (the italics are mine).

That this conclusion is unwarranted, is proved by a passage in a well-known work, which has escaped Mommsen (*Strafrecht* p. 970), as well as Mr Turner. The *Apologia* of Apuleius, which is a literary expansion of the defence he made before the proconsul of Africa, Claudius Maximus, at Sabrata in the year A.D. 158, contains the following passage: 'Thallus solus, ut dixi, quod ferme **ad centesimum** lapidem longe **exul** est, is Thallus solus abest, sed misimus qui eum curriculo aduehat' (cap. 44). Sabrata was 300 Roman miles, as the crow flies, from Carthage, and much farther by road. It was possible to use the phrase *ad centesimum* in the middle of the second century, with clear reference to Carthage (or Utica?), and therefore the possibility still remains that the *De duobus montibus* was written in Africa.

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