

HADRIAN TO MINUCIUS FUNDANUS¹

I have received the letter addressed to me by your predecessor Serenius Granianus,² a most honorable man; and I am unwilling to pass over this report in silence, lest innocent persons be disturbed and occasions be given to the informers to practice villainy. Accordingly, if the provincials will so far support this petition of theirs as to accuse the Christians in some court of law, I do not forbid them from doing so. But I will not allow them to make use of mere requests and outcries.⁴²⁶ For it is far more just, if anyone desires to bring an accusation, that you give judgment upon it. If therefore, anyone brings an accusation, and gives proof that the said persons do anything contrary to the laws, you will punish them in proportion to the offenses. And this, by Hercules,⁴²⁷ you must give special heed to, that if anyone through mere calumny bring an accusation against any of these persons, you will punish him with more severe penalties in proportion to his offense.

¹ C. Minucius Fundanus was consul in 107 C.E. and proconsul of Asia c. 125 C.E.

² Q. Licinius Serenius Granianus was consul in 106 C.E. and proconsul of Asia C. 123–124 C.E.