ON THE APOLOGISTIC WRITINGS, &c.

TERTULLIANI
LIBER APOLOGETICUS

ADVERSUS GENTES.

I. St non licet vobis, Romani imperii antiquitates, in sperto et edito ipso fere vertice civitatis praesidentibus ad judicandum, palam dispiciere oculis coram examinare, quid sit liquido in causa Christianorum; si ad hanc solam speciem auctoritatis vestrae de justitia diligentia in publico aut timet legem aut erubesce inquirere: si demum, quod proxime agitur, accidit, domesticii judicii nimis operata secta qui hujus infestato obstulti viam defensionis: hitat veritati vel oculata via tacitum litterarum ad

Tertullian is used for "case" or "subject," as de Orat. c. 1, quodam esse in hae quaque specie, &c. but it probably signifies here species eruptionis, as de Libb. c. 1, genus species tum exspectansque defensiones. So that the sense will be, "If with regard to this charge only of all others, (i. e. Christianity), you are either ashamed or afraid to enquire publicly into the due administration of justice."


1 Obtutum siem. This phrase, like obtergtere gradum, (de Virg. Vel. c. 15; de prae. Her. c. 15), is equivalent to impedimenta esse.

1 Anteitae. These are termed praeludia afterwards, c. 9, and 50. Liter in this sentence means little more than fide, which I only mention because it has been referred to the compulsory injustices of the government, (c. 29, impaleta et velis necessitas opus), under the influence of demoralized agency.

5 ad idem, &c. I think the construction of this rather intricate sentence is as follows: si autem, etc. timent aut pr. in just. diligentia, ad hanc solam species ad may thus mean either simply "with reference to," like nihil ad hanc consensu retrocundatur, c. 55; or it may be used after timent, like reprobore ad morem, c. 59; ad multitudinem, c. 52, prover ad Christi nominem, Arnob. c. 13. Species in Tertullianis is used for "case" or "subject," as de Orat. c. 1, quodam esse in hae quaque specie, &c. but it probably signifies here species eruptionis, as de Libb. c. 1, genus species tum exspectansque defensiones. So that the sense will be, "If with regard to this charge only of all others, (i. e. Christianity), you are either ashamed or afraid to enquire publicly into the due administration of justice."

8 Obtutum siem. This phrase, like obliterare gradum, (de Virg. Vel. c. 15; de prae. Her. c. 15), is equivalent to impedimenta esse.