

Transcript of Ammianus Marcellinus. The Roman History of Ammianus Marcellinus: During the Reigns of the Emperors Constantius, Julian Excerpt

28. And let us come to the . . . common people . . . to them the Circus Maximus is their temple, their home, their public assembly; in fact, their whole hope and desire.

29. And you may see in the forum, and roads, and streets, and places of meeting, knots of people collected, quarrelling violently with one another, and objecting to one another, and splitting themselves into violent parties.

30. Among whom those who have lived long, having influence by reason of their age, their gray hairs and wrinkles, are continually crying out that the republic cannot stand, if in the contest which is about to take place, the skilful charioteer, whom some individual backs, is not foremost in the race . . .

31. . . . when the wished-for day of the equestrian games dawns, before the sun has visibly risen, they all rush out with headlong haste . . . and the greater part of them, through their anxiety, pass sleepless nights.