



St. Gregory the Wonderworker on the ancient Greeks

St. Gregory's quote in the Greek original:

Οὐ μὴν δὲ ἀλλὰ καὶ γε τὸν νοῦν ἕτερόν τι μάθημα δεινῶς ἐπιλαμβάνει, καὶ τὸ στόμα συνδεῖ τὴν γλῶτταν, εἴ τι καὶ μικρὸν εἰπεῖν τῇ Ἑλλήνων ἐβελήσαιμι φωνῇ, οἱ θαυμαστοὶ ἡμῶν νόμοι, οἷς νῦν τὰ πάντων τῶν ὑπὸ τὴν Ρωμαίων ἀρχὴν ἀνθρώπων κατευθύνεται πράγματα, οὔτε συγγεῖμενοι οὔτε καὶ ἐκμανθανόμενοι ἀταλαιπώρως· ὄντες μὲν αὐτοὶ σοφοὶ τε καὶ ἀκριβεῖς καὶ ποικίλοι καὶ θαυμαστοί, καὶ συνελόντα εἰπεῖν Ἑλληνικώτατοι...

“Moreover, another branch of learning occupies my mind completely, and the mouth binds the tongue if I should desire to make any speech, however brief, with the voice of the Greeks;

“I refer to those admirable laws of our sages by which the affairs of the Roman Empire are now directed, and which are neither composed nor learnt without difficulty.

“And these are wise and exact in themselves, and manifold and admirable, and, in a word, most thoroughly Grecian...”

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