Marcus Aurelius

12. From Alexander the Platonist, not to say to anyone often or without necessity, nor write in a letter, I am too busy, nor in this fashion constantly plead urgent affairs as an excuse for evading the obligations entailed upon us by our relations towards those around us.

13. From Catulus, not to disregard a friend’s postulation even when it is unreasonable, but to try to bring him back to his usual friendliness; and to speak with whole-hearted good-will of one’s teachers, as it is recorded that Domitius did of Athenodorus; and to be genuinely fond of one’s children.

14. From my brother Severus, love of family, love of truth, love of justice, and (thanks to him!) to know Thrasea, Helvidius, Cato, Dion, Brutus; and the conception of a state with one law for all, based upon individual equality and freedom of speech, and of a soverainty which prizes above all things the liberty of the subject; and furthermore from him also to set a well-balanced and unvarying value on philosophy; and readiness to do others a kindness, and eager generosity, and optimism, and confidence in the love of friends; and perfect openness in the case of those that came in for his censure; and the absence of any need for his friends to surmise what he did or did not wish, so plain was it.  

1 See Phil. Vit. Soph. ii. 5, p. 297 Kays. He was summoned by Marcus to Pannonia about 174 and made his Greek secretary.  
2 A Stoic, see Capit. iii. 5.  
3 Domitii were among the maternal ancestors of Marcus, and an Athenodorus was Fronto’s teacher (ad Cnem. iv. 12; Nab. p. 78).  
4 See Index II. He was father of the son-in-law of Marcus.