

if truth would get a hearing from the emperor. And so Constantine said, well, we will give you a hearing. And he had been pretty well poisoned against Athanacious by this bishop Eusebius whom he was very fond of, not the Church ~~Historian~~ Historian. So they summoned the leaders, these bishops, to Constantinople and when they got there and Athanacious was all ready to give the lies and these false charges, they appeared and didn't mention one of them ~~but~~ but said that Athanacious had stopped the corn ships from coming from bringing the corn to Constantinople, from bringing the food from Egypt, and they knew that ten years before a philosopher who had been suspected as being part of the plot to stop the corn ships, when there had been a famine in Constantinople had been killed, just out of suspicion of that, and they brought this charge, and it was entirely new, and Athanacious said, well, how ridiculous, why would I have them stopped. I don't have the wealth or the strength to do anything like that. And Eusebius said, why certainly you have the power and the wealth to do this, and the emperor was quite disturbed by this, and then he sentenced ~~the~~ Athanacious to go into exile to France. So he had to go up into France to exile, where he remained for the next two and a half years. And Constantine, however, would seem not entirely convinced, because then one of the bishops said, now we should proceed to have an election of a new bishop for Alexandria. Constantine remembered how at the Council of Nicea they had all voted for the Nicean Creed and Constantine himself had declared his strong support of it at that time, and he remembered how Athanacious had been the secretary of the leader of the party for the Nicean Creed and so active in it, and he evidently Constantine had a good bit of knowledge of possibilities ~~from~~ from his experience in administration, even though he was very very partial to this bishop ~~of~~ Eusebius, and he curtly refused to allow the election of a new bishop. So, in Alexandria, Athanacious continued to be the nominal bishop of Alexandria, though he was in exile. His work was carried on by his assistants down there.

He went off into exile and for the next two and a half years he was up