

defiance even to Pompey. But the indomitable warrior pursued them; and conscious that he must expect determined resistance, he went provided with all the apparatus for conducting sieges. To his surprise he found the pirates overawed by his military renown, and they surrendered almost without any show of opposition.

With great wisdom and mercy, Pompey followed up his victory. All the slaves he found in their hands he freed; took possession of all their resources for evil, and then established measures to reclaim the inhabitants from their guilty and wretched habits of life. Some of the pirates he removed into the interior, and endeavored to encourage them in the cultivation of the soil. In seven weeks from the time he sailed from Italy for the east, the sea was swept clean of every piratic craft, and measures were in successful operation permanently to change the habits and characters of those who had so long been scourges of humanity.

The magnificent island of Crete had until now maintained its independence. But a Roman army was at this time overrunning it, with every prospect of speedily effecting its subjugation. The Cretans, hearing of the wisdom and mercy of Pompey, sent a delegation to him at Cilicia, requesting him to come and receive their submission. Pompey was more than willing to accede to their request, and sent one of his lieutenants, Octavius, to take possession of the island. But Metellus, who was in command of the Roman legions there, spurned the message, and crushing down all opposition, with military exactions and executions of the utmost cruelty, brought the whole island in subjection to his feet.

The popular party was now again advancing, and the aristocracy at Rome, in their alarm, opposed every measure of reform, however reasonable or salutary it might be. The people were now looking to Pompey as their friend. Manilius, one of the tribunes, proposed that as Pompey had been so successful in terminating the piratic war, he should be

entrusted with the sole management of the war against Mithridates and Tigranes. This was the famous Manilian law. It was bitterly opposed by the nobles generally; but both Cæsar and Cicero advocated it, and it was carried.

Lucius Sergius Catiline, a man of world-wide notoriety through the eloquence of Cicero, now first makes his appearance upon the historic stage. He offered himself as a candidate for the consulship. But the senate pronounced him ineligible, as he was then under accusation for misconduct in the government of a province in Asia. Exasperated by this rejection, he conspired with two companions of congenial profligacy, to murder the two consuls-elect, Cotta and Manlius, on the first of January, as they were taking their oaths of office. Catiline, and one of his confederates Ausanius, were then to seize the consular dignity for themselves, while the third conspirator Piso, was to be dispatched to Spain to secure that province. The plot was suspected and its execution was consequently postponed to the fifth of February, when it was intended not only to murder the consuls, but a large part of the senators. Again, by some misunderstanding, the plot was frustrated. Both Cicero and Sallust mention this conspiracy as universally known, yet the conspirators being baffled, strangely were not punished.

Two years after this Catiline again offered himself for the consulship. He had been one of Sylla's most merciless agents in his proscriptions. Profligacy had reduced him to indigence, and in the desperate state of his affairs he was ripe for any remunerative crime. He was of patrician birth, and polluted with even an unusual share of the vices at that time characteristic of his class. Many young nobles, his boon companions in debauchery, were accomplices in his treasonable plots. The oppressions of the nobles had filled the land with restless spirits. The confiscations of Sylla had deprived thousands of their property, and these impoverished multitudes had something to hope for, and nothing to lose by revolution. It is also

recorded that there were many women of distinguished rank, out of utterly polluted lives, ruined by extravagance and dissipation, who were ready to use poison or the dagger, even against their own husbands, hoping to extricate themselves from their embarrassments by the tumult of civil war.

Catiline affected to espouse the cause of the people, though he himself was one of the most corrupt, and had been the most intolerant of the patricians. But it was evident to every eye that all the honors and emoluments were grasped by the rich, and the masses of the people were degraded and impoverished. Consequently whoever spoke upon this theme found thousands of eager listeners. Even Cicero, notwithstanding the comparative purity of his character and his exalted abilities, was bitterly opposed by the nobles when a candidate for the consulship, solely because he could not boast exalted lineage. But as he earnestly avowed aristocratic principles, though of plebeian birth, the nobles at length condescended to waive their objections. The nobles were also alarmed in view of Catiline's conspiracy, and needed the influence of Cicero's matchless eloquence to protect them.

It was under these circumstances that Cicero and Antonius were elected consuls. Catiline, defeated in the election, was doubly exasperated. He now began to push forward with new vigor his schemes for civil war. His partisans at Rome were rapidly increased, secret meetings were held, depots of arms were provided at different points, and large sums of money were raised. Cicero, with great sagacity, traced out all the labyrinths of the plot. Though Catiline was ever attempting the assassination of this his most formidable foe, the friends of Cicero guarded him so carefully that all the efforts of the conspirators in that direction were frustrated.

One of the conspirators, Q. Curius, a debauched noble, hopelessly involved in debt, found himself quite unable to meet the extravagant demands of a woman, Fulvia, with whom he was living in criminal connection. To appease her

murders, he assured her that he should soon have money enough, and revealed to her the conspiracy, which was just on the eve of its accomplishment. She, woman-like, betrayed the secret to another, and soon Cicero had her in his employ, as his agent, keeping him minutely informed of all the details and progress of the plot. In this way, also, he was enabled effectually to guard against his own assassination. Still the character of Roman law was such that the consul could not move against the conspirators until there were some overt act of rebellion. Catiline assumed the air of an innocent and calumniated man, and his friends were so numerous, that it was needful that his guilt should be undeniably proved before it would be safe to strike him.

During all this time Cicero devoted his energies to the support of the aristocracy, lending no countenance to any measures for meliorating the deplorable condition of the poor. A law was proposed to provide the starving populace with land to cultivate, from the vast tract of national territory which war had depopulated. It is true that this homestead bill contained some objectionable features. Cicero, however, suggested no amendment, but brought upon the scheme the crushing weight of his eloquence, and the people were left to starve. A resolution, humane and just, was introduced, to restore to the rights of citizenship the children of those who had been infamously proscribed by Sylla. Again the voice of Cicero was heard on the side of oppression, and his eloquence prevailed.

At a meeting of the senate, as Catiline entered with an air of innocence, Cicero immediately assailed him with direct accusation and bitter reproaches. Catiline, allowing exasperation to get the better of his prudence, pithily replied, "There are two parties in the commonwealth; the nobles, weak in both head and body; the people, strong in body, but headless. I intend to supply this body with a head."

Measures were now ripe for the revolt. One of the con-

spirators, C. Manlius, hastened to Etruria, and, summoning his partisans, raised the banners of civil war. Others of the conspirators rallied their forces in Picenum and Apulia. But Cicero was prepared for the crisis. Proclamations, scattered far and wide, announced the peril. Armies were sent to crush the insurgents; and Rome assumed the aspect of a city under martial law. Still Catiline walked the streets unarrested. Though guiding every movement, he professed entire innocence, and declared his belief that the alarm was a mere pretense. As there was as yet no legal evidence against him, and he belonged to the aristocratic party, he could not be arrested. In his assumed innocence he offered to place himself in the custody of any persons whom the senate might appoint, even in that of the consul Cicero himself.

Many suspected Cicero of fabricating the story of the conspiracy to subserve his own ends, and particularly to effect the destruction of his rival Catiline. Hence it became a matter of vital importance to Cicero, that the conspiracy should be left to develop itself sufficiently to remove all doubt from the public mind. Still it was necessary for him to adopt such precautions for defense, that Catiline was greatly embarrassed in his operations, and his accomplices in Rome were overawed by the vigilance of the government. At length Catiline resolved to lay aside the mask. One night he assembled his associates, in one of their secret gatherings, and after giving them minute directions as to the plan of procedure, arranged for two of their number, C. Cornelius and L. Varguntius to go early the next morning to Cicero's house and assassinate him in his chamber. The conspirators had hardly crept through the dark streets of Rome to their homes, ere Cicero through his spies was informed of all that had transpired.

The next morning, November the 8th, Cicero convened the senate in the temple of Jupiter Stator, on the brow of the Palatine hill. Catiline, with his characteristic effrontery,

entered and took his seat with the rest of the senators. The audacity was so great, that Cicero, thoroughly as he knew Catiline, was amazed, and broke out upon him, in that oration of impassioned eloquence, with which every school-boy is now familiar, commencing with the words, "How long, O Catiline, wilt thou abuse our patience?"

That very night Catiline left Rome, to join Manlius in Tuscany. Still, while on his route, he wrote several letters to persons of high rank, affirming his innocence, and declaring that he was driven, by persecution from Rome, and that he should retire to Marseilles, into voluntary banishment. Information was transmitted so slowly in those days, that the statement was believed, by many, even long after Catiline was at the head of the insurgent camp.

Catiline now, with great energy, marshaled his forces. Stopping a few days at Arretium he organized the insurrection there, gave his lieutenants minute directions, and then proceeded to the camp of Manlius, which was near Fæsulæ. His agents were everywhere busy, in rousing the slaves to join them, by proffers of freedom, a measure which will always be resorted to in civil war, and which, under such circumstances, renders a slaveholding community almost helpless. In this emergence Cicero remained at Rome to protect the city. His colleague Antonius was sent with an army to confront Catiline. The conspirators, left in the city by the arrangement of Catiline, were, on a particular day, to murder the principal inhabitants, and, in all directions, kindle conflagrations. Catiline, by a secret march with his army, was to be at hand, cut off the fugitives, and, in the general consternation, with enormous butchery, take possession of the smoldering city. A large number of the profligate, ruined young nobles, were accomplices in the execrable plan; a contemplated revolution of blood and woe, by which one part of the aristocracy, making use of the slaves and the mob as their tools, consigned another part to massacre, merely for the sake of plunder and

power. Catiline had as little sympathy for the people, as had those aristocrats in power, whose cause Cicero so eloquently and energetically espoused.

Cicero at length succeeded in obtaining ample and legal evidence against the leading conspirators in the city, and four of them were arrested. Cicero then assembled all the people in the forum, and detailed to them the objects of the conspiracy, and the convincing proof which had been elicited. When the masses learned that the city was to have been surrendered to conflagration and indiscriminate massacre, their indignation was roused to the utmost.

The arrested conspirators were immediately brought to trial and condemned to death as traitors. It is remarkable, in attestation of the theology of those times, that Cæsar advocated confiscation and banishment instead of death; declaring that death was not severe punishment enough, since death was *annihilation*, with nothing more to fear or suffer. This emphatic denial of the immortality of the soul, was received by the assembled senate of Rome without any surprise or dissent, which seems to prove that the mass of thinking men in that day had no belief in a future state. The popular theology was believed only by the ignorant, and it had a *very frail* hold upon them, apparently having but the slightest possible influence upon their conduct. It is the gospel of Christ alone which has brought immortality to light, with all its infinite persuasions to a holy life. The prisoners were, after long debate, doomed to death, and were strangled in their cells.

Catiline was now at the head of twelve thousand men, but his plan of burning Rome had been frustrated, and he commenced a retreat toward Gaul. Antonius, with a consular army pursued him. A battle soon ensued. The insurgents were cut to pieces, and Catiline, sword in hand, rushing despairingly into the thickest of the battle, fell among the slain. Thus terminated this most renowned conspiracy recorded in the annals of history. The eloquence of Cicero has given it immortality.

CHAPTER X.

CÆSAR AND POMPEY.

FROM 59 B. C. TO 50 B. C.

CATO.—RETURN OF POMPEY TO ROME.—CLODIUS AND THE MYSTIC RITES.—DIVORCE OF POMPEIA.—ANECDOTES OF CÆSAR.—THE TRIUMVIRATE.—POLICY OF CICERO.—POPULAR MEASURES OF CÆSAR.—DIVISION OF THE SPOILS OF OFFICE.—PROSECUTION OF CICERO.—HIS BANISHMENT AND RECALL.—DEMOCRATIC TRIUMPHS.—DOMESTIC GRIEFS.—BLOODY FRAY.—TUMULT IN ROME.—DICTATORSHIP OF POMPEY.—ORGANIZATION OF A ROMAN COURT.—ANECDOTE OF CÆSAR.—HIS AMBITIOUS DESIGNS.—SICKNESS OF POMPEY.—POLITICAL CONTESTS IN ROME.—OPEN WAR.—RETREAT OF POMPEY AND FLIGHT TO GREECE.

ANOTHER of the most renowned of the men of antiquity now makes his appearance upon the busy stage of Roman life, Marcus Porcius Cato, a man of illustrious birth and fortune, and of exalted genius. In the early years of childhood, he gave indication of that force of character and resolution which distinguished his whole career. His education was conducted with much care, under the guidance of a private tutor, Sarpedon. His temperament was naturally cold, reserved, and stern. He was seldom seen to laugh, and despising the effeminate and dissolute habits of the young men of his day, he adopted the most singular plainness of dress, and great austerity of manners and conduct. With much energy he coöperated with Cicero to quell the insurrection of Catiline, and in an eloquent speech, which Sallust professes to have preserved, he urged upon the senate the rigorous punishment of the conspirators.

As Catiline had professed to be the friend of the masses of the people, the poorer classes were generally in his favor. Cæsar, whose sympathies were avowedly in favor of popular rights, was understood to lean toward the side of mercy in