

Roman empire, and Cæsar but the general of one of his armies.

Cæsar was annoyed beyond measure in being thus eclipsed. Ambition was the all-devouring passion of his soul. In one of his expeditions, he passed through a miserable hamlet in Switzerland. One of his friends, in contemplating the wretched hovels and impoverished inhabitants, wondered whether rivalry and ambition agitated the hearts of the people there. Cæsar divulged his whole nature in the reply, "I had rather be the first man in such a village as this, than the second man at Rome."

Cæsar's command in Gaul was to expire in a few years, and then he had the humiliating prospect of returning, a private citizen, to Rome. Pompey had secured for himself five additional years for the command of the army in Spain; and he had also obtained the passage of a law forbidding any magistrate to be appointed to the government of a province, until five years after the expiration of his magistracy. Thus Cæsar was cut off from advancement, while Pompey was amply provided with continued wealth, dignity, and power.

But Cæsar was not a man to be laid upon the shelf. Obstacles to success never discouraged him; they only roused him to greater energies. He had already conquered a large part of Gaul, and enriched himself with almost fabulous wealth. And with him, wealth was of no value but as an instrument of power. He immediately became lavish of his treasure in securing the coöperation of a large number of influential friends in Rome.

To Cicero he loaned money in abundance. He won the applause and gratitude of the people by commencing at Rome several works of great public utility, and by establishing magnificent spectacles. Thus he kept his name continually alive in the metropolis. To his soldiers he was boundless in his liberality, while at the same time, he welcomed to his camp adventurers from all lands. Cæsar had been himself a slave;

but this did not prevent him from being a slave-trader. His boundless wealth was acquired by plundering the towns of the Gauls, and by selling the wretched captives into bondage. The soul sickens in reflecting upon the atrocities and woes of these dark days. If we can judge at all from the testimony of history, it would appear that the best men in those days were guilty of conduct which would now consign any one to infamy.

Pompey and Cæsar still professed friendship for each other, but it was well known that in heart, they were bitter rivals. Their partisans in Rome were openly arrayed against each other. As the result of past conflicts, in the days of Marius, and Cinna, and Sylla, many of the Italian allies had secured the rights of Roman citizenship. But all the nations between the Po and the Alps were, as yet, deprived of those rights. They were restless and murmured loudly. Cæsar, advocating ever the popular side, had espoused their cause, and was accused even of having at one time incited them to open insurrection. He now enlisted earnestly in their behalf. Availing himself of the power to which his military position entitled him, he had conferred upon several of the towns north of the Po the rank of Roman colonies; and thus, any of their inhabitants who were appointed to public offices in those towns, became by that position, citizens of Rome. Comum, at the foot of Lake Como, was one of these towns.

A magistrate from that place, happening to go to Rome, claimed his rights as a Roman citizen. Marcellus, then consul, opposed to Cæsar, denied his claim, and, in cruel mockery, ordered the man to be scourged, and then bade him go and show his wounds to Cæsar. Cicero, in a letter to Atticus, alludes to this outrage, and says that it would give as much offense to Pompey as to Cæsar. Pompey was not at all disposed to make the people his foes; and he was himself in favor of conferring the rights of citizenship upon the inhabitants beyond the Po, as an act of justice.

Cæsar was silent respecting the outrage and insult, but quietly he was maturing his plans. He was at that time at the head of one of the finest armies which had ever been organized. Marcellus and other foes of Cæsar were conspiring to remove him, at any risk, from a position of such power. Pompey, with characteristic moderation, unwilling to give his former father-in-law any just grounds of offense, frustrated the contemplated movement. In the meantime, Curio entered the consulship, and ardently espoused the interests of Cæsar. His enemies said that he was bribed by a gift, amounting to four hundred thousand dollars. He commenced action by attacking Pompey, and declaring that he was aspiring to absolute command. Pompey's greatness was now such that the jealousy of the people was aroused, and they loudly applauded the denunciations of Curio. Pompey also began to be alarmed at the increasing greatness of Cæsar, and he advocated his recall.

We have now traced the incidents of Roman history down to the 44th year before Christ. In the autumn of this year Pompey was taken dangerously sick, at his villa, near Naples. His celebrity was such that all Italy was agitated with sorrow, and in all the temples sacrifices were offered in his behalf. When he recovered, the rejoicing seemed to be universal, and there were festivals of thanksgiving in all the towns. And when, in his convalescence, he returned slowly in his carriage, to Rome, the populace crowded the roadsides, with garlands by day, and torches by night, and strewed his path with flowers. Pompey was greatly gratified by these indications of popular favor, and was deceived into the belief that all Italy would move at his command. "I have," said he, "but to stamp my foot and armies rally around me."

But a few months passed away ere one of Cæsar's most confidential officers arrived at Rome, to attend to some private business for Cæsar, and did not call upon Pompey, but departed again, without holding any communication with him.

Soon after this, Antonius, a warm supporter of Cæsar, assailed Pompey in the tribune, in a speech of the utmost bitterness, following him through his whole public career with the most acrimonious denunciations. It became now pretty evident that there must be civil war. Neither Pompey nor Cæsar would be contented with the second place in the state, and they were each able to command immense resources. In this conflict the aristocracy almost universally would be with Pompey, and the populace, as a general rule, with Cæsar. There were, at the same time, not a few persons of broken fortunes, eager for tumults of any kind, hoping thus to retrieve their ruined affairs. Cæsar had presented his name as a candidate for the consulship. Pompey caused a decree to be issued, declaring that Cæsar could not be a candidate, until he first resigned his command of the army, and returned to Rome a private citizen. This would place Cæsar powerless in the hands of his enemies.

Cato was bitterly hostile to Cæsar. Cicero, though by nature inclined to non-committal, still, with his strong aristocratic tastes and associations, was disposed to coöperate with Pompey. Brutus, a nephew of Cato, was then in Rome, a young man of much promise, who had not as yet taken any very conspicuous position in public affairs. C. Cassius was one of the tribunes of the people. C. Octavius was then a boy only thirteen years of age.

At this time, an envoy came to Rome, from Cæsar, with a message to the senate. The letter contained a statement of the services Cæsar had rendered to the commonwealth, and a proposition that he would resign the command of his army, if Pompey would do the same; but stating, with much apparent candor, that it was not just to desire him to lay aside all power of defense, and expose himself helpless to his enemies. A vehement debate ensued, the partisans of Pompey demanding that Cæsar should be required to resign before a certain day, and that, if he should refuse, he should be pronounced a traitor

The aristocracy, as a body, united to crush Cæsar. The people, through the agency of the tribunes, supported the popular leader. The contest was violent and protracted, and at length the senate, in the exercise of its highest prerogative, invested the consuls with dictatorial power, by a decree authorizing them "to provide for the safety of the republic."

Lentulus and Marcellus were then consuls; the last who held that office by the free votes of the Roman people. The dictatorial power, surrendered to the consuls, alarmed the friends of Cæsar, and three of them, Antonius, Cassius, and Curio, deeming their lives no longer safe, fled from Rome to Ravenna, where Cæsar then was, awaiting the result of his appeal to the senate. Cæsar was commanded to resign his office, and the direction of all the forces of the commonwealth was, by the same decree, placed in the hands of Pompey. High as was Cæsar's reputation at that time as a general, the reputation of Pompey was still more exalted.

Ravenna, then a more important town than now, was situated upon the shores of the Adriatic, about three hundred miles northeast from Rome. Cæsar had with him but one legion, consisting probably of between six and seven thousand men. The remaining eight legions of his army were quartered beyond the Alps. No sooner was Cæsar informed of the transactions at Rome, so hostile to him, than he assembled his soldiers around him, informed them of what had transpired, and committed his cause and their cause to their strong arms. The soldiers with enthusiasm responded to his appeal. That same night he advanced, by a secret march, several miles on the road to Rome, and took possession of the small town of Areminum. Here Cæsar received a private letter from Pompey, in which Pompey endeavored to defend the course he had pursued, declared that he had not been influenced by any unfriendly feelings toward Cæsar, and entreated Cæsar not to pursue measures which would inevitably involve the country in civil war.

Cæsar returned an answer couched in similar terms of friendship, similar avowals of devotion to the public good, and similar entreaties that Pompey would not persist in measures which must desolate their country with the horrors of a fratricidal strife. In addition, he urged that both should give up their armies; that all the forces in Italy should be disbanded, and that the senate and people should be left freely to deliberate on all public questions, and especially upon the question of his claims to the consulship. He finally requested a personal interview with Pompey.

Two envoys, L. Cæsar and L. Roscius, were sent to convey this letter to Rome. Cæsar, however, did not await the result of uncertain negotiations, but, with his disciplined cohorts, advanced, and crossing the Rubicon, which formed the boundary between Italy and his province of Gaul, took possession of the towns of Ancona, Fanum, and Pisaurum. It is said that Cæsar hesitated for some time upon the banks of the Rubicon, ere he ventured to take that step from which there could be no retreat. There are always crowds ready to gather around victorious banners. Multitudes, from all parts of Italy, flocked to the camp of Cæsar. He had also summoned other legions of his army from beyond the Alps, and his advance in such force, toward Rome, excited general consternation in the capital.

Pompey, quite unprepared for such decisive action, fled from Rome with the consuls, most of the senate, and a majority of the smaller magistrates, and sought refuge in Capua, that they might find time to organize efficient measures of resistance. Pompey had no troops to rely upon but two legions, which had been recently withdrawn from Gaul; and these legions were so devoted in their attachment to Cæsar, that it was greatly feared that at his approach, they would rush to join his banners. Pompey immediately sent out recruiting officers to raise soldiers, but the people, overawed by the advance of Cæsar, were very reluctant to enlist. Under these circumstances, there seemed to be no hope for Pompey, but to

retreat to the south of Italy, cross over to Greece with such forces as he could carry with him, and there attempt to organize an army sufficiently strong to warrant his return to make war upon Cæsar.

While in the midst of these embarrassments, he received Cæsar's letter. The propositions it contained were discussed in full council, and the peril was so great, that, probably to gain time, it was agreed to accede to his terms, provided Cæsar would withdraw from all the towns he had occupied out of his limits and go back to his own province.

But Cæsar was still advancing, and Pompey was still levying troops. Neither was willing to be the first to disarm, lest the other should then strike an effectual blow. Cæsar was consequently continually accumulating troops and fortifying his positions, and Pompey was also collecting an army and retreating. He had sent recruiting officers in all directions to enlist soldiers, but not a few of these men deserted and passed over to Cæsar. The month of February found Pompey at Luceria, in Apulia, with a considerable army, but one by no means sufficient to cope with the disciplined troops of Cæsar, who was at this time several hundred miles distant, in the north of Italy, occupying the towns of Iguvium and Auximum.

One of Pompey's officers, Domitius, at but a few days' march south of the encampment of Cæsar, had collected at Corfinium nearly nineteen thousand men. The insane idea entered his mind that he could with that force resist the march of Cæsar. In defiance of the express orders of Pompey, that he should hasten with his division to join the commander-in-chief at Luceria, he fortified himself at Corfinium. Pompey was greatly disturbed by this act of disobedience, and continued his retreat to Brundisium, at the southwest extremity of the Italian peninsula, where he arrived about the twenty-fifth of February. Domitius had cherished the hope that Pompey, appreciating his military sagacity, would at

once march to strengthen him. But he was left to his own resources. The banners of Cæsar soon appeared before the battlements of Corfinium. The soldiers of Domitius had sufficient intelligence to perceive their utter inability to resist such a foe. They began to murmur and desert, and finally broke out in open mutiny.

Seizing Domitius and all his officers, they sent word to Cæsar that they were ready to open the gates, deliver the officers into his hands, and receive him as a deliverer. Cæsar entered the city in triumph, and summoning the officers before him, reproached some of them with personal ingratitude, but, with the magnanimity which generally characterized his conduct, dismissed them all unharmed. He even allowed Domitius to carry away a large amount of treasure, which he had brought to pay his troops. The soldiers, with alacrity, enlisted in the service of Cæsar. With new vigor, he put his army in motion to march upon Brundisium, hoping to capture his only formidable rival there. It was evident to all that there was no hope for Pompey but in flight. Success is usually a persuasive argument. The crowd flocked to Cæsar, and Pompey was deserted. Even many senators and other men of rank and fortune, reluctant to abandon their country and follow Pompey into exile, were disposed to recognize the legitimacy of power, and to seek the smiles of the victor.

On the ninth of March, Cæsar arrived before Brundisium, at the head of nearly forty thousand men. Pompey had but twelve thousand, but they were very strongly intrenched. Many of his followers, with their wives and children, had already embarked for the opposite coast of Greece. Cæsar urged the siege with great vigor, and pushed out two moles from the opposite side of the harbor's mouth, that he might cut off the possibility of retreat by sea. Pompey, however, succeeded in holding Cæsar in check, until he was enabled to embark with the remainder of his troops and followers, and

on the seventeenth of March he spread his sails, and his fleet soon disappeared, passing over the blue waves of the Adriatic to the shores of Greece. The citizens immediately threw open the gates, and Cæsar entered the town, now undisputed master of Italy.

CHAPTER XI.

THE STRUGGLE AND FALL OF POMPEY

FROM 50 B. C. TO 48 B. C.

SIEGE OF BRUNDISIUM.—FLIGHT OF POMPEY.—CÆSAR'S MEASURES IN ROME.—HIS EXPEDITION TO SPAIN.—THE WAR AND FINAL CONQUEST.—CÆSAR RETURNS TO BRUNDISIUM.—CROSSES TO GREECE IN PURSUIT OF POMPEY.—VICISSITUDES OF THE WAR.—POMPEY'S VICTORY AT DYRACHIUM.—RETREAT OF CÆSAR.—BATTLE OF PHARSALIA.—UTTER RUIN OF POMPEY.—HIS FLIGHT.—JOINS CORNELIA AND HIS SON.—MELANCHOLY VOYAGE TO EGYPT.—HIS ASSASSINATION BY PTOLEMY.

AS Pompey's fleet was leaving the harbor, Cæsar, with six legions in his train, entered the streets of Brundisium. With much military skill Pompey had effected the embarkation of all his troops and his followers, and had completely swept the harbor of its shipping, so that Cæsar had no means of pursuing. It was on the 17th of March that the last division of Pompey's army made sail, and the next day the inhabitants threw open their gates to Cæsar. He entered the city in a triumphal procession, and made an address to the inhabitants; but finding it impossible immediately to follow Pompey, he decided to repair to Rome to consolidate his power, while his agents were building and collecting ships to transport his army to Greece, in pursuit of the fugitives.

Pompey, regarding Cæsar as a traitor and a rebel, had issued very denunciatory proclamations, threatening with the most severe punishment, any who should proffer him the slightest aid or countenance. Cæsar, on the other hand, had manifested the greatest moderation toward the partisans of Pompey. The sympathies of the community were consequently turning rapidly toward the conqueror. Cæsar at once assumed the attitude of the lawful sovereign of Italy.