

a spirit of justice and clemency that he was admired even by his enemies. In governing the Romans he sought the interest of the state, not that of a party. To better the conditions of the state, he encouraged agriculture and founded numerous colonies.

Death of Cæsar. — 44. The people joyfully accepted servitude under so wise and moderate a master, but the aristocratic party withheld their allegiance. A plot was



Death of Cæsar.

formed by Brutus, who was supposed to be the son of Cæsar, and Cassius, a friend of Pompey, whom Cæsar had spared after the battle of Pharsalia. These together with several other conspirators assailed him with their daggers and the Dictator, pierced with twenty-three wounds, fell dead at the foot of Pompey's statue, in the year 44, at the age of fifty-six.

Cæsar as master of Rome showed great magnanimity. He restored Pompey's statue in the Senate and recalled the political exiles. He generously forgave his adversaries and even conferred dignities on certain friends of Pompey.

The Dictator, warned of the plot formed against him, took no notice of it, unwilling to believe that such audacity and ingratitude could exist. At first he defended himself but seeing Brutus