



Vol. XV.

OTTAWA, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1913.

No. 5

Entered at the Post Office at Ottawa, Ont., as Second-Class Matter.

Cassius.

THE primary evil in Cassius' character is selfishness. This vice is the back-bone from which spring the ribs and limbs of cruelty, cunning and unscrupulous greed. The head, and guiding power, to this body is his keen practical sense and his instinctive insight into the characters of men. It is these latter qualities that make him the most dangerous of Cæsar's enemies—and the most feared by Cæsar.

Selfishness is perhaps the most virulent of vices. It becomes ingrained in a man. It is particularly dangerous because it is the overdevelopment of a good quality—it is inordinate self-love. Self-love is a quality which enables us to respect ourselves, and as a consequence to command the respect of others; but when self-love becomes so great that we find ourselves wrapped up in schemes for our own advancement at the expense of others, this is selfishness. It not only injures man by weakening him morally but it injures his neighbor, who is deprived of something by his selfishness. It weakens the moral fibre; it is the source of innumerable other vices; it awakens greed, avarice, cunning; it makes its victim unscrupulous.

This is how it laid hold of Cassius. It became an obsession with him. In all things his first thought was, "Of what advantage is it to me and if of advantage how can I acquire it?" From his selfishness, his jealousy is developed. He not only wants all,