

tyranny of a king as that "a man of such a feeble temper," "a man no mightier than thyself or me in personal action," should have obtained such great power in Rome. He returns repeatedly to these two things, Cæsar's physical weakness, and his unfitness to exercise absolute power in Rome. Cæsar, on his part, when the procession is returning from the Lupercal, expresses an opinion of Cassius which, in the main, falls in with our idea of Cassius as he has already revealed himself in the play:

"He reads much;
He is a great observer, and he looks
Quite through the deeds of men; he loves no plays,
As thou dost, Antony; he hears no music;
Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort
As if he mocked himself and scorned his spirit
That could be moved to smile at anything.
*Such men as he be never at heart's ease
While they behold a greater than themselves.*"

In his efforts to influence both Brutus and Casca, Cassius exhibits a keen knowledge of human nature. He sees at once the best means of influencing them, and he is so eloquent and so persuasive that he carries the audience with him. But like most agitators he is not always actuated by the finest sense of honour, and he makes use of a piece of dishonest trickery in order to influence the unsuspecting Brutus. When the conspiracy is formed, Cassius is shrewd enough to see the conditions which are essential to its success; but he finds himself overruled at every point by Brutus, who by virtue of his standing in Rome at once assumes the position of leader.

In the latter half of the play, the finer and more personal qualities in the character of Cassius are revealed. Even if the charge of Brutus as to Cassius' methods of raising money is true, we are ready to overlook it as due to the practical necessities of the situation. In the Quarrel Scene we cannot but admire the self-restraint of Cassius under extreme provocation; and in the latter part of the scene he shows touches of tenderness towards Brutus that make us forget the "envious" Cassius of the early part of the play. Brutus addresses him as "noble, noble Cassius;" and later in the play as he looks upon the dead body of Cassius he exclaims:

"The last of all the Romans, fare thee well!
It is impossible that ever Rome
Should breed thy fellow."

And Titinius, his trusted lieutenant, is ready to give his own life to show his devotion to his master.

Antony. In the first half of the play Antony is purposely kept in the background by the dramatist, and when he does appear we are