

hecklers generally got the worst of it. The Roman Government felt quite easy about the rural agitation conducted by Jesus; all the harm caused by his agitation was therefore felt by the priests.

Jesus, like Moses, Mahomet and others in all ages who had a card up their sleeve that they did not wish the ignorant crowd to know anything about, often retired to lonely places very likely for private consultation with the representatives of the Roman Government. On one such occasion we are told he met two mysterious characters, which the only two of the disciples that ever saw the strangers were told were Moses and Elias. At the time of the capture of Jesus in a lonely place Jesus had previously given his disciples a hint of what was to take place, and some of them had provided themselves with weapons of defence, but they did not use them. Very little resistance would probably have sent the servants of the high priest sent to capture Jesus back without accomplishing anything. Probably Jesus and the Roman Government had come to the conclusion that all that could be done at the time to set the common people against the priests had already been done, and that the time had come to test the result. The result was that as far as Jerusalem was concerned, the conservative party—the party of the priests—were still in a vast majority. When the matter was put to the test by appealing to the people whether they would prefer Jesus or Barabbas, the highway robber, released, the crowd by a vast majority preferred the release of Barabbas, a thief and a murderer; and when they were asked "What was their wish about Jesus," they shouted "Crucify Him, Crucify Him."

Pilate played his part of the game well, and so did Judas and Jesus, but it was absolutely useless to try to wean the Jews away from the baneful power of the priests. The mock trial was accordingly gone through with. Jesus was apparently crucified and gave up the ghost, but it is quite evident from the details of the story that there was a flake somewhere. The legs of the other two that were crucified with Jesus were broken, while the legs of Jesus were not. While the prosecution was initiated by the Jewish priests, the Romans only had the final say in the matter. In the matter of life