

commenced his career by slaying, with his own hand, *His crimes.* Q. Caecilius, his own brother-in-law, and by torturing to death M. Marius Gratidianus, a kinsman of Cicero. Though his youth was spent in open debauchery, and reckless extravagance, though he made away with his first wife and his son to marry the worthless and profligate Aurelia Orestilla, the guilty crimes of Catiline do not seem to have been any barrier to his advancement to political honors. He obtained the praetorship B.C. 68, and in the following year was *Offices held.* proprætor of Africa. He returned to Rome B.C. 66 to press his suit for the consulship. The two consuls who had the highest votes were P. Autronius Paetus and P. Cornelius Sulla, both of whom were convicted of bribery, and their election was declared void. Their places were filled by L. Aurelius Cotta and L. Manlius Torquatus. Catiline was prevented from being a candidate in consequence of an impeachment brought against him for mal-administration of his province of Africa by P. Clodius Pulcher, afterwards the implacable enemy of Cicero. Autronius and Catiline, exasperated by their disappointment, formed a league with Cn. Calpurnius Piso to murder the consuls on the first of January, to seize the *fascēs*, *First Conspiracy.* and to occupy Spain. The plan leaked out, and was postponed till the fifth of February. The scheme, however, failed in consequence of Catiline giving the signal too soon. Resolutions were passed by the Senate condemning the conspiracy, but these were squashed by the intercession of a tribune. Some say that both Caesar and Crassus were involved in this First Conspiracy of Catiline. About this time, Catiline was acquitted of extortion (*res repetundæ*), but the trial rendered him penniless. About the beginning of June, 64 B.C., he began to plot more systematically to carry out his plans for a general