

was kept in good humour by being fed and amused with the plunder of the provinces.

A dangerous conspiracy was formed against Nero, in A.D. 65, by Piso; but it was discovered, and Piso himself, the poet Lucan, and many others, had to pay for the attempt with their lives. Seneca, who was suspected of being an accomplice, put an end to his existence by opening his veins. His next victims were his own wife, Poppæa Sabina, whom he killed in a brutal fit of passion, and Antonia, a daughter of Claudius, whom he ordered to be murdered, because she refused to marry him. Every honest and virtuous person now became an object of fear and hatred to the tyrant. In A.D. 67 Nero went to Greece, and there took part as a player on the lyre in the great national games, distinguishing himself by the grossest follies and cruelties. Soon after his return an insurrection broke out in Gaul, which had been fearfully oppressed by its governors. It was headed by *Julius Vindex*, who offered the sovereignty to *Servius Galba*, the governor of Spain, who was at once proclaimed emperor by the soldiers. The prætorians at Rome, following their example, likewise proclaimed him emperor. Nero, now abandoned by all, took to flight; and on being discovered, inflicted a wound on himself, of which he died, A.D. 68. He was the last survivor of the family of Augustus, and henceforth the prætorians or the legions in the provinces assumed the right of electing the emperor.

During the reign of Nero the Parthians succeeded in gaining possession of Armenia, but Corbulo, a most able general, in a long protracted war, recovered the whole of that country; under his successor, however, it was lost again. Germany was tolerably quiet under Nero; but in Britain a great insurrection broke out, in B.C. 61, in consequence of the fearful rapacity and oppression of the Roman governor. The Britons, headed by their queen, Boadicea, annihilated a whole Roman legion, and destroyed several Roman colonies. But the governor Paulinus, on his return from the island of Mona, where he was