

Cæsar. He was defeated at the battle of Philippi and took his own life. He was buried at Thasos.

Decimus (Decius) Brutus was born 84 B.C. He served under Cæsar in Gaul, and was named by Cæsar as his heir in the event of the death of Octavius. In spite of this, however, he joined the conspiracy against Cæsar, and after Cæsar's death he led the republican armies in Gaul against Antony. He was betrayed, however, and was put to death by order of Antony, while attempting to join the army of Brutus and Cassius.

Time Analysis.

The period of time covered by the events in *Julius Cæsar* is about two years and eight months,—from the feast of Lupercal, February 15, 44 B.C., to the battles of Philippi, in October, 42 B.C. The main events referred to in the play are as follows:

February 14, 44. Feast of the Lupercal. Cæsar refuses the crown.

March 15, 44. Cæsar's assassination. His funeral takes place a few days later, and Brutus and Cassius leave Rome within a few days.

May, 44. Octavius arrives in Rome.

November, 43. Meeting of the Triumvirs at Bononia (Bologna).

October, 42. Battles of Philippi, with an interval of twenty days between them.

For the sake of dramatic effect Shakespeare makes the events of the play follow upon each other in such a way as to cover up the intervals of time as far as possible. On the first day of the action the feast of Lupercal takes place, and the storm of thunder and lightning follows, the same evening. Before morning the conspirators see Brutus at his house. A few hours later they meet at Cæsar's house, and go with him to the Capitol. After the assassination, the funeral speeches take place; and on the same day Octavius arrives in Rome, and Brutus and Cassius flee from the city. The events of three months have thus been crowded into two days. The meeting of the Triumvirs occupies a third day, the quarrel scene a fourth, and the battles of Philippi a fifth, so that the whole action of the play covers only five days, with intervals.

But although the intervals of time are shortened as much as possible, it is sometimes necessary to give the audience the impression that a considerable period of time has passed, as, for example, in the case of the month between the Feast of Lupercal and the Ides of March. In such cases the dramatist makes use of what is known as *double time*. While he speaks of coming events as near at hand he refers to past events as if they had taken place a considerable time before. Brutus, for example, in Act II., Scene I., ll. 49-50, and ll. 61-2; speaks as if a good many days had passed 'since Cassius first did whet him against Cæsar!' And besides this system of double time, the intervening incidents, as well as the intervals between scenes and acts, all serve to give the audience the impression that the necessary time has elapsed.