

the multitude, Brutus makes the fatal mistake of his life. Mark Antony's oratory sounds the death knell of the conspirators. Their cause is wrecked even through the means by which Brutus hoped to strengthen it.

It would be difficult to define the principles of Brutus' philosophy. He professed uprightness to such a degree, that he could not countenance the slightest fault in others; and yet, when placed in a similar position, he laid aside his philosophy, and committed the same acts he had previously condemned. A striking example of this inconsistency is afforded in the famous quarrel scene. In this quarrel there were two sides to the question. Brutus had punished one Lucius Pella, for taking bribes from the Sardians, and had ignored the letters from Cassius, praying for clemency towards the criminal. Cassius had refused to advance a sum of money, required by Brutus to pay his legions. We are at a loss to con-

ceive how Brutus could frown upon the practice of bribery, by which, he was well aware, the army of Cassius existed; and at the same time ask Cassius to share with him, the money obtained by such base means. Perhaps a little light may be thrown on the subject, by remembering that it was Brutus, who so strongly censured Cato, for taking his own life. It was none other than Brutus, who, when he found himself in the midst of dangers, proved his moral cowardice, by having recourse to the same act.

If then Brutus be weighed in the balance, and found wanting in those admirable virtues, commonly ascribed to him, what place shall he be assigned in the catalogue of Shakespeare's characters? To my mind, the idea that most strongly suggests itself is, that Brutus is a highly accomplished professional patriot, and is well qualified to receive the opprobrious decoration, Brutus, the Hypocrite.

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POETS.

O brave poets, keep back nothing ;
Nor mix falsehood with the whole !
Look up Godward ! Speak the truth in
Worthy song from earnest soul !
Hold, in high poetic duty,
Truest truth the fairest Beauty.

