

entertainment can possibly arise to an elegant and humanized mind from seeing a noble beast struck to the heart by its merciless hunter, or one of our own weak species cruelly mangled by an animal of much superior strength? But were there anything really worth observing in spectacles of this savage kind, they are spectacles extremely familiar to you, and those I am speaking of had not any peculiar novelty to recommend them. The last day's sport was composed entirely of elephants, which, though they made the common people stare, indeed, did not seem, however, to afford them any great satisfaction. On the contrary, the terrible slaughter of these poor animals created a general commiseration; as it is a prevailing notion that these creatures, in some degree, participate of our national faculties."

It is pleasing to us to note that even the Roman populace, proverbial for their delight in witnessing brutality and bloodshed in the arena, could be moved to pity by such a sight as Cicero here describes.

Not the least interesting part of Cicero's correspondence are the letters which he wrote to Trebatius, a young man whom he had sent out to Caesar in Gaul with a letter of introduction and who became an aide-de-camp to the commander. Cicero writes in a humorous, bantering style, with an under-current of good advice which the pleasure-loving young Roman evidently stood in need of. It is naively refreshing to us to hear our own island of Britain referred to as the very "ultima Thule" of barbarism:

"I take all opportunities of writing in your favor; and I shall be glad if you would let me know with what success. My chief reliance is on Balbus, in my letters to whom I frequently and warmly recommend your interest. But why do you not let me hear from

you every time my brother despatches a courier?

"I am informed there is neither gold nor silver in all Britain. If that should be the case, I would advise you to seize one of the enemy's military cars and drive back to us with all expedition. But if you think you shall be able to make your fortune without the assistance of British spoils, by all means establish yourself in Caesar's friendship. To be serious, both my brother and Balbus will be of great service to you for that purpose; but, believe me, your own merit and assiduity will prove your best recommendation. You have every favorable circumstance indeed for your advancement that can be wished. On the one hand, you are in the prime and vigor of your years; as on the other, you are serving under a commander distinguished for the generosity of his disposition, and to whom you have been recommended in the strongest terms. In a word: There is not the least fear of your success, if your own concurrence be not wanting. Farewell."

And again in a later letter:

"I perceive by your letter that my friend Caesar looks upon you as a most wonderful lawyer; and are you not happy in being thus placed in a country where you make so considerable a figure upon so small a stock? But with how much greater advantage would your noble talents have appeared had you gone into Britain? Undoubtedly there would not have been so profound a sage in the law throughout all that extensive island.

"Since your epistle has provoked me to be thus jocose, I will proceed in the same strain, and tell you there was one part of it I could not read without some envy; and how, indeed, could it be otherwise when I found out that, whilst much greater men were in vain attempting to get admittance to Caesar,