

*Goes to
Athens,
Asia, and
Rhodes.*

*Returns
home.*

*Elected
quaestor of
Sicily*

*Indicts
Verres,
B.C. 70.*

*Elected
aedile,
69 B.C.*

*Praetor,
66 B.C.*

*His first
political
speech.*

*Pro lege
Manilia,
65 B.C.*

*Consul,
63 B.C.*

*Unpopu-
larity of
Cicero.*

*Causes of
Exile.*

*Deserted by
the
Triumvirs.*

acquired the acquittal of his client, but incurred the enmity of the dictator. With the ostensible object of regaining his health he went to Athens, where he studied philosophy under Antiochus, the Academic, and under Zeno and Phaedrus, both Epicureans. From Athens he travelled through Asia Minor and finally settled for a short time at Rhodes, attending there the lectures of Molo, the rhetorician. Returning home, he at once entered on that political career to which his commanding ability destined him, and was elected *quaestor* of Sicily. During his term of office he so endeared himself to the inhabitants of the island by his integrity that they selected him as their patron at Rome. In their behalf he subsequently conducted the prosecution against Verres, who was charged with extortion. His success in this cause, and his consequent popularity, procured him the office of *curule aedile*. After the usual interval he was chosen *praetor*, and, while holding this office, delivered the first of his political harangues, in defence of the bill proposed by C. Manilius to invest Pompey with supreme command in the Mithradatic War. Two years afterwards he gained the *consulship*, the goal of his ambition. His consulate is memorable for the bold attempt of Catiline to subvert the government—an attempt which was frustrated by the patriotic zeal of the consul. Cicero had quickly soared to the pinnacle of fame: as quickly did he fall. In crushing the conspiracy of Catiline questionable means had been employed. Clodius, his implacable enemy, revived a law exiling all who had been guilty of putting to death Roman citizens without a formal trial before the people. The Triumvirs, too, were disgusted with the vanity of the man who was constantly reminding the people that he was the “Saviour of Italy” and the “Father of