

dangerous opponent. Able and vigorous he comes into prominence at once after Cæsar's death, and turns the tide in favour of the Cæsarian cause. He is Cæsar's loyal friend. In his apostrophe of Cæsar after his death he does him homage in the presence of his assassins. When alone and, we may assume, speaking from the heart, he speaks his mind further—

"Thou art the ruins of the noblest man  
That ever lived in the tide of times."

While he calls Brutus noble, wise, valiant, and honest, he is yet "to be resolved how Cæsar hath deserved to die." He mingles frankness and craft at this stage. His speech at the funeral is admirably suited to its purpose; and shows that, while he claims to be no orator, he is one with consummate gifts to sway the populace at his will. Cassius, still "old Cassius" with the biting tongue, may at the end call him "a masker and a reveller," but he finds that on the field of battle, as on the platform, he is strong to avenge the friend whose spirit conquers in him at Philippi.