

profession; yet perhaps no commander has ever shown greater military genius—a genius which, in his case, was shown in the wonderful forethought with which he selected his materials, the singular care which he had for the welfare of his soldiers and the surpassing skill which he displayed in correcting his own mistakes and in taking advantage of the mistakes of his enemies. As a man of letters Caesar holds no mean place. In the matter of oratory Cicero said that he excelled those who practised no other art. The majority of his writings have been lost, but of his commentaries on the Gallic wars which we still possess, Cicero said “fools might think to improve on them but no wise man would try it.”

3. His rapidity of movement is seen in the extraordinary way in which he collected and arranged his forces after what would seem to most men, overwhelming defeats. With two exceptions, he was never defeated when personally present. These exceptions were the engagements at Gergovia and Durazzo and the way in which the failure at Durazzo was retrieved showed Caesar's true greatness more than the most brilliant of his victories. Cut off from his friend Antony, by the whole of the opposing army under Pompey's leadership, he marched rapidly round Durazzo and joined Antony before Pompey was aware of the fact that he had moved at all.

4. Caesar's justice is one of the prominent characteristics of his public career. It has already been stated that the one great passion which he exhibited in his public life was the hatred of injustice. His love of justice is apparent in the code of laws which he drew up—the code known to jurists as “*Leges Juliae*.” These laws aimed at the securing of better government, the prevention of bribery and extortion, and the distribution among deserving citizens of some part of the public lands which were being stolen by the rich. Upon these principles and upon these alone could Roman or any other society continue to exist.

5. Not less conspicuous than his justice are his clemency and humanity. At daybreak on the morning after the bloody battle of Pharsalia in which Caesar was completely victorious, twenty-four thousand of his opponents of the aristocratical party surrendered to him. They came down from their camp begging