

vested with supreme power, though all the forms of the republic were kept up.

### His Death

Not long was he to enjoy the power ambition and military success had placed in his hands. He strove hard to reform the State and by the exercise of his arbitrary authority removed many evils. Among the more important of his reforms was the Julian Calendar. Enemies soon sprang up. Partly in jealousy and partly through mistaken zeal for republicanism when it was no longer possible, they accused him of aiming at kingly power. A band of conspirators, among whom was Brutus, his trusted friend, struck him down with daggers on the Ides (15th) of March, 44 B.C., as he sat hearing petitions in the Senate chamber at the foot of Pompey's statue.

2. **Caesar's Character and Person.** — Caesar was great as a *politician and statesman*, great as a *soldier and general*, great as an *orator*, great as a *scholar and man of letters*. Everything he attempted, he did thoroughly. He was shrewd, self-possessed, dignified yet charming in demeanour and of commanding presence. He was "ambitious, but nobly so." He coveted power, but aimed to use it for his country's good. In war he was merciless even to women and children where treachery had been shown himself; but in the hour of his triumph over political enemies he showed a most forgiving spirit. He was the idol of his soldiers. In private life his earlier career was marred by vices prevalent in his time.

In appearance, he is described as tall and slender, with sharp features, sinewy neck, large nose and lips, and keen