

State. Pompey had risen high in the army; Cicero was a politician; Cæsar was watching his opportunity to make a name for himself in whatever department might offer. As yet he knew not where his great strength lay. That wonderful military prowess which he afterwards showed at the head of his famous legions was as yet unknown to him, and the last struggle with Pompey for supreme power was still in the distant future. For the present Cæsar thought his strength lay in supporting Pompey. Much dissatisfaction was expressed with one of the great military men of the day, named Lentulus, who, though successful as a general, was corrupt and cruel. Pompey, on the other hand, was upright and merciful, beloved alike by friend and foe. A law was proposed at Rome by Manilius to put the army under the supreme control of Pompey. This met with much opposition. Catullus and Hortentius, the two best known orators of the day, opposed it. Cæsar and Cicero supported it—the former by his influence, the latter by his eloquence. The speech of Cicero was one of great power. The high qualities of Pompey were held up in the most glowing light. Whether in Italy or Sicily, in Africa, Gaul or Spain; whether on land or sea, the power of Pompey was seen. And yet he says, "See him in his lovely character; no avarice turned him aside to plunder, no lust led him in pursuit of pleasure; no luxury allured him to seek its delights; the illustrious reputation of no city tempted him to make its acquaintance; even labour did not turn him aside to seek rest."—*Pro Lege Man.* xiv. The effect of this speech was, that the law was carried amid the loud applause of the people in the forum, and Pompey rose equal to the occasion, pushing by force of arms the glory of Rome both far and near.

There were in Rome, as there are now with us, and in every country,

two leading parties, best expressed by the names Conservatives and Reformers. On the Conservative side are usually men of high birth and title,—the aristocratic element; on the Reform side usually the populace,—but as the aristocratic element naturally has much influence among the people, strong support has always been found even among them. In Rome, the great seat of aristocracy was the Senate, corresponding in many particulars to the House of Lords, or to our own Senate. In Rome it was supposed that only those of patrician or high birth were to compose the Senate; but in time, wealth and talent asserted their rights, and many members, who had not the magic blue blood in their veins, were found in the Senate enrolled amongst the famous "patres conscripti." If a man desired to rise high in the State there was a certain order that he had to go through. First he had to be *quæstor*, a most important post, for it at once gave him, under good behaviour, a seat in the Senate for life. Cicero was fortunate enough to obtain this position in his thirty-first year,—the earliest age at which he could qualify. The idea of the Senate, from its name, was that it was to be composed of old men, but that age was placed at anything over thirty,—though I don't know that every man over thirty considered himself an old man then, any more than he does now. Once in the Senate, Cicero was in his element. It was his talent alone that put him there, for he had nothing to boast of in the way of family. He was called a *novus homo*,—born in the provinces. But in the Senate he could make his name known. The best blood of Rome would see his talent there; his position would give him the right at times to harangue the people. He would know all that was going on in the army, in the law courts, and in the state. In his time the Senate was not