

for a time they met with a measure of success. Then came reverses and Athens was compelled to submit. Phocion did his best to appease the conquerors, but could accomplish little. A wholesale banishment of citizens was decreed, and Phocion seems to have acquiesced in it. It may well be that he would have done better to have gone into exile himself. It was just the situation to bring out the weakness of his policy. He was ever for making the best of things, and this is a rule which it is sometimes hard to reconcile with honour.

Then followed a revolution in Macedonia. The new rulers reversed the policy of their predecessors and recalled the Athenian exiles. Phocion, sincerely believing that the old *régime* made for peace—with sincerity we are bound to credit him—endeavoured to put the Piræus, the port of Athens, into the hands of one of its partisans. He failed, and had to fly for his life. He was surrendered by the general with whom he took refuge, and was put upon his trial. He made no effort to save himself, but did his best for his friends. When the judges had pronounced the verdict of "Guilty"—and this they did almost unanimously—and it was his turn to propose the penalty,* he said: "Men of Athens, I acknowledge that I have done you wrong, and I propose for myself the penalty of death. But it is I who am to blame: these men have done you no harm." The appeal was vain, and all the condemned—five

* See p. 69.