

between the democratic faction, headed by Marius, and the aristocratic party headed by Sulla and supported by the Senate. Both Marius and Sulla in turn exercised arbitrary power, and after the death of Marius in 87 B.C., Sulla used every means to make the rule of the Senate supreme.

Sulla died in 78 B.C., and after his death Pompey became the leader of the aristocratic party in Rome. He succeeded in quelling rebellions at home and abroad, and in ridding the sea of pirates, and was, for the time being, the popular idol. In the meantime Julius Cæsar had risen rapidly to power, and in 60 B.C., Pompey, Cæsar, and Crassus, a wealthy Roman, united to form what is known as the First Triumvirate.

Cæsar, although belonging to an aristocratic family, had from the first been strongly in sympathy with the democratic cause, and spent his fortune freely in winning the favour of the Roman people. He was shrewd enough, however, to see that the way to secure real power in Rome was through military advancement. Accordingly, after his election as consul (59), he obtained an appointment as military governor, or pro-consul, of Gaul, and during the next eight years (58-50), he carried on a series of successful campaigns in Britain and Gaul. In the meantime, owing to the death of Crassus (53), the First Triumvirate was dissolved, and during the next few years a feeling of hostility developed between Cæsar and Pompey. Finally the Senate, who took the side of Pompey, and were afraid of the growing power of Cæsar, ordered him to lay down his arms and return to Rome. Instead of obeying this command, Cæsar at once crossed the Rubicon (dividing Italy from Gaul), and marched upon Rome. Pompey and his followers fled to the East, and the following year he was defeated at the battle of Pharsalus in Thessaly. Thence he fled to Egypt, where he was shortly afterwards murdered.

Cæsar was now supreme, and during the next few years he undertook to carry out great reforms in the state. He ruled with moderation, but at the same time he began to assume many of the outward marks of royalty; and although he refused the title of king he accepted the name of *Imperator*, which was sometimes bestowed upon a victorious general.

During the hundred years preceding the death of Pompey, important changes had taken place both in the character of the Roman people and in their form of government. As the result of foreign conquests there had grown up in the city a great body of idle "com-