

Quarrel with Pompey

In 54 B.C. Julia died, and in 53 B.C. Crassus was slain in battle in the East. Two links between Caesar and Pompey were thus broken. Pompey's friends of the Senate, moreover, were determined to crush Caesar and prevent him from securing the consulship again in 48 B.C., when he would be at liberty to return to Rome. He was ordered to disband his legions and return as a private citizen. He refused unless Pompey gave up his command. On Pompey's refusal, Caesar defied the Senate, crossed the river Rubicon, which separated his province from Italy proper, and at the head of his legions marched on Rome, receiving homage on every side. Pompey, his army, and the senators fled in dismay to Greece. Caesar seized the government and prepared to follow Pompey. After subduing Spain he crossed over to Greece in 48 B.C., and at **Pharsalia** defeated Pompey's splendid army of 50,000 men with his own ill-fed and badly equipped force of 23,000.

Master of Rome

Pompey fled to Egypt, where he was murdered by the king, who thought to please Caesar. Caesar, however, showed a humane spirit towards his enemies. He wept over the loss of life on the battlefield and turned away in horror from the dead face of his fallen rival. Caesar followed up his victory, subduing Asia Minor in the short campaign about which he wrote the famous letter, "*Veni, vidi, vici.*" By his victories at Thapsus in Africa (46 B.C.) and at Munda in Spain (45 B.C.) the Pompeian party was crushed. Returning to Rome, Caesar was