

"Pardon, Cæsar; Cæsar, pardon:
As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall,"

while in his heart is burning a volcano of hate.

When the fatal deed is done, his thoughts fly to schemes for his protection. His is the first crafty advice,

"Some to the common pulpits and cry out,
'Liberty, freedom and enfranchisement.'"

Again, his self-interest demands Antony's death, for Antony would be "a shrewd contriver" and might "annoy us," therefore he says,

"I think it is not meet,
Mark Antony, so well beloved of Cæsar,
Should outlive Cæsar."

Nor does he ever repent of his murderous methods for he says of Antony,

"This tongue had not offended so to-day
If Cassius might have ruled."

His jealousy and cruelty would be of no avail were it not for his keen practical sense. Cæsar judges him well when he says:

"He is a great observer and he looks
Quite through the deeds of men."

There are many examples of this. He is a great judge of character; he realizes the danger of sparing Antony, recognizing in him an impediment to his plans; he sees what a mistake it is to allow Antony to speak. He is not deceived by Cassius' apparent dullness, for he knows that "he puts on this tardy form," which is "a sauce to his good wit." He rightly judges Cicero's value to the conspiracy, seeing what an advantage it would be to have a revered, elderly orator with them. But where he shows himself most astute is when he persuades Brutus to head the conspiracy. Only Cassius foresaw how they would need this man, of upright character and morals, popular and respected by the people, but not so much of a natural leader as to deprive Cassius himself of his share in the spoils and glory. How cunningly he leads this "noble man" to commit a deed, at which, if left to itself, his spirit would have revolted.

Finally, however, Brutus, now rendered more practical by