

Weigh them, it is as heavy ; conjure  
with them,  
*Brutus* will start a spirit as soon as  
*Cæsar*."

Cassius, however, very prudently reserved his heavy shell for the final assault. He knew perfectly well that *Brutus* was easily liable to be moved by appeals to visionary feelings, and that he exulted in the great traditions of his name. Imagine then the effect of this appeal to *Brutus*' cherished weakness :

" There was a *Brutus* once that  
would have brooked  
Th' eternal Devil to keep his state  
in Rome,  
As easily as a king ! "

This passage in itself would be sufficient to establish the oratorical fame of Cassius.

Cassius, however, does not confine his efforts to *Brutus* alone. He finds in *Casca* a fit subject for his wiles and artifices. In this instance Cassius displays wonderful oratorical ability, as well as intimate knowledge of *Casca*'s character.

His hints at the real cause of the atmospheric perturbations are well calculated to excite in *Casca* a desire to shake off their womanish submission and a hatred and contempt for the existing state of affairs. But, when he has vented all his spite and jealousy, he seemingly checks himself and, with fine pretence that he has gone too far, apostrophizes his wrongs :

" But, O grief !  
Where has thou led me ! I, perhaps  
speak this  
Before a willing bondmen ; then I  
know  
My answer must be made : "

Could Cassius expect a different answer from *Casca* ?

" You speak to *Casca* ; and to such  
a man  
That is no fleering tell-tale."

As an orator, *Brutus* is nowise inferior to Cassius. His oratory is however, essentially different from that of the arch-conspirator. It possesses not that impulsiveness and lacks that spirit and energy, that ardor and vehemence, that warmth of feeling which we admire so much in the speeches of Cassius.

Moreover he does not possess that cleverness and adroitness in appealing to the feelings of his hearers, but in consistency with his nature, he urges reasons and motives which would have weight with himself, but which cannot convince his audience.

Of this inconsistency, we have numerous instances in his soliloquy just before the entrance of the conspirators, in which he sets forth reasons for joining the conspiracy. It is needless, however, to enlarge on this further unless to note that *Brutus* joined the conspiracy, not from any ground of fact but from a supposition that the crown would have pernicious effects on *Cæsar*, of course, not once thinking that the constitution of Rome was a thing of the past, or that this new title involved simply a nominal change.

In the same scene of this act (\*) there is a remarkable instance of *Brutus*' oratorical power. It is too good to pass unnoticed. Cassius, who thought all men schemers and villians like himself, suggested that they 'swear their resolution.' The very mention of such a desire, jarred upon the nicer sensibilities of *Brutus*, and in language forcible and vehement he denounces such a policy.

" No, not an oath : if not the face of  
men,