

What more graphic or more true,  
Than the picture\* *Cato* drew  
Of the proud Republic—Rome,  
Of freedom, once the honored home?  
Well does that patriot hand portray  
*Republics* of the *present* day.  
This is what the Roman said  
Of his people long since dead,—  
Those magistrates who, for gain,  
Flatter the people, in the main,  
Are by acclamations stunned,  
And with undeserved honors crowned.  
Domestic rule is broken up.  
Maid with mistress claims to sup;

*From Cicero's Commonwealth.*

\*NOTE.—“Then, those who feel in duty bound to obey the chiefs of the State are persecuted by the insensate populace, who call them slaves. But those in the magistracies who flatter the popular equality, and the demagogues who plead the levelling system and endeavour to abolish all distinctions between nobles and commons; these they stun with acclamations and overwhelm with honors. It inevitably happens in a commonwealth thus revolutionized, that liberalism superabounds in all directions: due authority is found wanting even in private families; and misrule seems to extend even to the animals that witness it. Then the father fears the son and the son neglects the father. All modesty is banished; they become far too liberal for that \* \* \* the master dreads and cajoles his scholars, and they despise their masters. The conceited striplings assume the gravity of Sages, and Sages must stoop to the folly of children, lest they should be hated and oppressed. The very slaves hold themselves as high as their lords; wives boast the same rights as husbands; dogs, horses and asses are emancipated in the outrageous excess of freedom, and run about so violently that they frighten the passengers from the road. At length this infinite licentiousness produces such a morbid self-sufficiency; such fastidious and effeminate sentiments get possession of the people, that when they observe even the slightest exertion of magisterial authority they grow angry and seditious, and then the laws are necessarily infringed because there is no ruler who dare to execute them.”