

into tyranny, and no one had courage enough to lift up voice against it. Sulla established one of the most iniquitous things ever set on foot in any country. It was called the *Proscription*: better might it be called the Bloody List. If A. had any private grudge against B. he could with a little influence get B.'s name put on the fatal list, and that meant death. Any one killing him was rewarded. Men looked on in horror, hoping earnestly for the death of the tyrant who was the cause of such misery and the ruin of so many homes.

It was a case connected with this proscription which first won public praise for Cicero. There is no doubt he possessed wonderful power as a pleader. It is impossible to read his speeches without coming to that conclusion. He possessed all the tact, wisdom and power which go to make up a first-class pleader. He evidently made every case his own special study, and his points were brought on gradually—the strongest reserved to the last, usually working up to a magnificent peroration, sometimes mixed with most exquisite pathos (as the kinder feelings of his judges for that mercy which we all hope at times to get were wrought upon), and withal with such consummate skill as almost to hide that it was a pathos wrought up for special design. And these qualities as a pleader he showed at a very early day. His first case was an appeal with regard to the Proscription. Men admired his courage even for undertaking the case. But although the life of Cicero is not without examples of timidity on his part, on the whole he had a fair amount of courage,—and especially as a lawyer. To help a client or to make a name for himself, as the case might be, he braved many a difficulty, and put himself more than once in the very jaws of death. But never, perhaps, did he place himself in greater danger than

at the first. He dared to dispute a case with the dread Dictator, whose name was a terror to stouter and older men than him. A harmless citizen of the country, named Sextus Roscius, had been surreptitiously put upon the fatal Proscription list. He was murdered, and his property seized by those who had planned the whole crime. His son appealed to law, but was himself accused of having murdered his father. Cicero defended him in an excellent speech. He knew enough not to blame Sulla. He flattered him, compared him to Jupiter Optimus Maximus, who was sovereign of the universe, and, on the whole, a good sovereign, but with so much business on his hands that he could not manage every little minor point of detail. The result of his clever management was that young Roscius was acquitted of the charge laid against him, and was put in possession of his lawful property—and Cicero won what is the most delightful moment of a young man's life, his first hearty applause and congratulations, and that without incurring the displeasure of Sulla.

Soon after this our orator had another opportunity of showing his legal powers, and it is one which brings out strongly the uprightness of his character. He seems to have been thoroughly honest, not only professionally, but in his writings and practice. He seems ever to have been on the side of honesty and right, against villainy and wrong. As men were in his day, he was a paragon of goodness. He made the Grecian philosophers a special study, and had learned the great value of virtue. His very language seemed wanting in power to express what he had learned in Greek, and the *δικαιοσύνη* and *σωφροσύνη* seemed to him to be as wanting in reality as in words. Dishonesty in public officers was what he particularly despised—despised it, indeed, as he did