

power of his eloquence. In the terrible invective which he delivered in the Senate on the morning after the secret meeting of the 6th of November, 63, he so moved his colleagues by the sly words of his silvery tongue, that even the conspirators themselves were silent; and Cataline overawed and brow-beaten fearing to ruin the project by an answer, left the Senate, and quitted the City for the camp of Manlius.

Do not think that we would exonerate Cataline from all blame, it is only to show that he was a better man and of nobler impulses than is generally supposed.

His support was strong, and upon his arrival in Etruria many enrolled themselves with him, but the treacherous discovery of all plans and preparations in the City had early checked proceedings, and rendered an outburst impossible. How strongly the terrified people were with him, heart and soul, is shown in the fact that when the Senate offered an amnesty to all who should quit the rebels, and sue pardon; with great rewards to whomsoever would give information, not a soul could be found so treacherous, and not a single soldier deserted the camp. Cicero neglects to mention this little fact.

Cataline being away, the management of city affairs fell to incompetent men, who were caught in a neatly planned trap of Cicero's, and summarily arrested. On the 5th of December, the Senate met to determine the penalty which the prisoners should suffer, for an attempt at rescue by an excited populace was leared. Then came the most atrocious act of all. The fiery oratory of an emboldened Cicero, again turned with its magic the Roman will, and the heroic Statilius Cethegus, Gaturius and Cæparius, with the high born Sentulus, were strangled that night by the public executioner in a loathesome dungeon. This was a palpable violation of the first principles of the Roman Constitution, for that solemnly declares that no Roman citizen should be put to death until sentenced by the whole body of the

people in their *comitia*. Cicero was publicly accused of this crime afterwards by Metellus Celer, in the Forum, but the accuser's voice was drowned by the cries of Cicero's clique. We can exclaim in Cicero's very words in his famous speech against Verres: "Had any prince, or any state, committed the same outrage against the privileges of Roman citizens, should we not think we had sufficient reason for declaring war against them?"

Cataline's last struggles were worthy of a Tell, a L'Oerverture or a Kosciusco. He had an army of about five thousand men, many of whom were not fully armed, but were devoted to their cause, to Manlius and to Cataline. Hemmed in among the mountains by two armies, Cataline had to risk an engagement and throw his little band upon the enemy, nobly discharging the duty of a general and a most skillful soldier. His eye and hand ranged the the whole field, he brought up new columns to support those hotly pressed; he withdrew the wounded and the weary to a place of safety, and supplied their places with eager and fresh troops; he flew from rank to rank with words of cheer for his men, and strove by heroic deeds of daring valor to turn the fortunes of the day. But when he saw his companions slaughtered on all sides, his companies broken and wasted, and his brave Manlius pierced by a deadly spear, he plunged headlong into the midst of the enemy, and fell pierced by many spears. When found, after the battle, far ahead of his own troops, he bore, even in his death throes, the triumphant smile of a conqueror and a patriot.

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HISTORICAL READING.

NOTWITHSTANDING a person who possesses little knowledge of history is looked upon as a being remarkably ignorant, few histories are so written as to be attractive to the general reader. History affords interesting reading to almost