

his soldiers, and by that proceeding, corrupted them for ever; because, from that moment, there was not one of the military profession who did not wait for an opportunity of seizing the effects of his fellow-citizens.

He was likewise the inventor of proscriptions, and set a price on the head of every man who had not embraced his party. From that time, it became impossible for any one to be devoted to the republic; for whilst two ambitious men were contending for superiority, those who observed a neutrality, or were attached to the cause of liberty, were sure to be proscribed by either of the competitors who should prove victorious; it therefore became prudent to engage in one of the two parties.

After him, says Cicero (*a*), came one, who in an impious cause, and a victory still more infamous, not only seized on the effects of individuals, but involved whole provinces in the same calamity.

Sylla, when he resigned the dictatorship, seemed to desire only to live under the protection of his own laws: but this action, which shewed so much moderation, was itself a consequence of his violences. He had settled forty-seven legions in different parts of Italy: these men, says Appian, imagining that their fortune depended on his life, watched for his safety, and were always ready (*b*) to assist or revenge him.

As the republic was fated to destruction, the on-

enemies were parcelled among the army, but Sylla made the same division of those which belonged to the citizens.

(*a*) Offic. lib. ii. c. 8.

(*b*) We may see what happened after the death of Cæsar.