

conspirators, which produced a false appearance of peace.

Caesar, a little before his death, whilst he was preparing for his expedition against the Parthians, had appointed magistrates for several years, that he might secure himself a set of men who, in his absence, would maintain the tranquillity of his government; so that, after his death, the party who had espoused his interest were in a condition to support themselves for a considerable time.

As the senate had ratified all the acts of Caesar without any restriction, and as the consuls were intrusted with the execution of them, Antony, who was then one of those magistrates, got possession of Caesar's book of accompts, gained upon his secretary, and made him insert, in that book, all the articles he thought proper, by which means the dictator reigned more imperiously than when he was living; for what he could never have accomplished, Antony had the dexterity to effect; great sums of money, which Caesar would never have bestowed, were distributed among the people by Antony, and every man, who had any seditious designs against the government, were sure to find a sudden gratuity in Caesar's books.

It unfortunately happened that Caesar, to make his expedition effectual, had amassed prodigious sums, and deposited them in the temple of Ops; Antony disposed of these as he thought fit, by the expedient of his book.

The conspirators had, at first, determined to cast the body of Caesar into the Tyber, (a) and might

(a) That action would not have been unprecedented; for when Tiberius Gracchus was slain, Lucretius the edile, who was