

It is impossible in the nature of things that such a wretch should ever enjoy a moment of ease. Let any one read the Lives of Dionysius [k], Tiberius, Nero, Lewis XI. of France, John Basilowitz [l], &c. and he will see that all those monsters ended their days in the most miserable manner.

Cruelty proceeds from an atrabilaire and malevolent disposition, which, if not timely corrected, often turns to furious madness. If then there was no such thing as Justice upon Earth, or an Almighty power in Heaven, it would still be the true interest of every one to be virtuous and humane; as such dispositions unite mankind in bonds of amity, and are absolutely necessary for their happiness and preservation: whilst vice and tyranny never fail to plunge them into misery and destruction.

labes in animo censes habuisse? quæ vulnera? Cujus autem vita ipsi potest utilis esse, cum ejus vitæ ea conditio sit, ut qui illam eripuerit in maximâ & gratiâ futurus sit & gloriâ.

What a picture of distraction does Tacitus give us in the Character of Tiberius, *Annal. vi. cap. vi.* Here follows that Tyrant's Letter to the Senate. "Quid scribam vobis P. C. aut quomodo scribam, aut quid omnino non scribam hoc tempore, Dii me Deæque pejus perdant quam perire quotidie me sentio, si scio." Upon which, the Historian makes this remark. "Adeo facinora atque flagitia ipsi quoque in supplicium verterant. Neque frustra præstantissimus sapientiæ adfirmare solitus est, si recludantur tyrannorum mentes, posse aspici laniatus & ictus; quando ut corpora verberibus, ita sævitiâ, libidine, malis consultis, animus dilaceretur: quippe Tiberium non fortuna, non solitudines protegebant, quin tormenta pectoris suasque ipse poenas fateretur." Which Mr. Gordon translates in this manner. "What to write to you, Conscript Fathers, or in what manner to write, or what at all not to write at this instant, if I can determine, may all the Deities, Gods and Goddesses, doom me to still more cruel agonies than those under which I feel myself perishing daily."

So closely did the horror of his cruelties and infamy haunt this man of blood, and became his torturers! Nor was it at random what the wisest of men was wont to affirm, that if the hearts of tyrants were displayed, they would be seen full of deadly wounds and gorings, since what the severity of Stripes is to the body, the same to the soul is the bitter anguish of cruelty, lust, and execrable pursuits. To Tiberius, not his Imperial fortune, not his gloomy and inaccessible solitudes, could ensure tranquillity, nor exempt him from feeling and even avowing the rack in his breast, and the avenging furies that pursued him."

Suetonius speaking of this letter in the Life of Tiberius, says, "Postremo semet ipse pertæsus, tali epistolæ principio tantum non summam suorum malorum professus est."

[k] A Tyrant of Syracuse, of whom Tully says, "Vitâ ejus nihil terius, miserius, detestabilius."

[l] Basilius Suiski, Great Duke of Moscow. He mounted the throne in the year 1606, after Demetrius was murdered by the rebels; but was rivaled by another Demetrius, supported by the Poles, who defeated his army at Kovelsko, in 1607, routed him the next year at Bolchow, and at last dethroned him in 1610, and shut him up in the fort of Gostin, where he ended his life miserably. *Butensfels.*