

I shall say nothing of Heliogabalus [*u*], Macrinus [*x*], or Julian [*y*], who being all effeminate and contemptible persons, were soon pulled down: but before I conclude this discourse, I must add, that the Princes of our times are under no necessity of gratifying the Soldiery in their respective governments, by such extraordinary means: for though they ought not to be altogether neglected, yet no danger is now to be apprehended from them, which may not easily be remedied; since the armies of Princes are not kept together in one body at present, nor suffered to continue for a long course of years in the same Governments and Provinces, as those of the Roman Emperors were; who therefore were obliged to favour the Soldiery rather than the people, because they had more power in their hands [*z*]. But at this time of

monster of cruelty, that he was called the Cyclops, the Busris, the Sciron, Phalaris, Typhon, and Gyges of his age. He crucified many people; others he buried alive in the skins of beasts; some he exposed to Lions, and other wild beasts; and others he caused to be cudgelled to death, without ever shewing the least compassion. The Senate at last declared him a public enemy, at which he was so enraged, that he had well nigh killed his Son, whom he had made his partner in the Empire. His Soldiers likewise being wearied out with his inhumanities, cut off both him and his Son, at the Siege of Aquileia, and sent their heads to Rome, after they had given their bodies to wild beasts. His son was said to have nothing of the barbarous disposition of the father; but they were so thoroughly exasperated, that they were determined to leave none of the family alive.
Orosius.

[*u*] This Emperor was so abominably vicious and luxurious, that he was called the *Roman Sardanapalus*: when he was near the Sea, he would eat nothing but fowls from the remotest mountains; and when he was the farthest from it, he would feast upon nothing but Sea-fish. He fed his lamps with balsam, and his fish-ponds with scented water. He was extravagantly lavish of his treasures, exposed all honours and offices to public sale, and usurped an uncontrollable power both to himself and his Servants. His two Coachmen, Protogenes, and Gordius, were his chief companions and fellow-debauchees. At last he became so hateful to his own guard, that both he and his mother were killed in the camp, and their bodies, after a thousand indignities from the populace, first thrown into the common Sewer, and afterwards into the Tiber, after a reign of near four years: He was but eighteen, or (as some say) but twenty-two years old at most; yet he had been guilty of all manner of vices and villainies, and such other enormities, as would make those blush that read his History. *Aurelius Victor.*

[*x*] Macrinus was of a very mean birth: but fortune raised him by degrees; having been a fencer, a huntsman, a Scrivener, an Attorney-general, and a Captain of the guards. His cruelty made him odious to the Soldiery, by whom he had been elected Emperor: So that they put him to a violent death, after he had reigned a little above a year. *Julius Capitolinus.*

[*y*] This Julian was of so mean and niggardly a disposition, that he made a little pig and a leveret, which were sent him of a present, serve him for three Suppers, dining every day in the mean time, on a few herbs and garden stuff. When Septimius Severus came to Rome, he privately hanged him in the most retired place of the imperial palace. *Victor Aurel.*

[*z*] Witness the Legions in Germany, who boasted that they had the Empire in their own hands. “*Sua in manu sitam rem Romanam, suis victoriis augeri Rempublicam, in suum cognomentum adscisci Imperatores.*” *Tacit. Annal. I.* “*Evulgato Imperii arcano, posse Principem alibi quam Romæ fieri.*” *Hist. I.* “*Et posse ab exercitu Principem fieri*”.

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