

nions, and shut the brazen Gates on each Side the Temple of *Janus*; which was the Sign of the *Romans* enjoying universal Peace, and had never been done but once before, since the Sign of *Numa*, who built that Temple. Of all the Titles given him by the Senate, that of *Augustus* was thought the most sacred; a Name adopted afterwards by all the succeeding Emperors. He died at *Nola* in the forty-fourth Year of his Reign, which took its Commencement from the Sea-fight at *Actium* mentioned above.

*Tiberius*, his Son by Adoption, and Successor (in whose Time our Saviour was crucified) did not perform many great Actions, when he was Emperor; though before his Accession to that Dignity, he had often signalized both his Conduct and Courage. At the Beginning of his Reign he behaved with great Moderation and Equity: But afterwards leaving the City he retired into *Caprea*, a little Island near *Campania*, where he indulged his most monstrous Lusts, and perpetrated every kind of Cruelty. His Custom was to invite to his Court the Kings of such Nations, as he suspected of Disaffection; and when he had them in his Power, never to let them return to their Kingdoms. Among these was the King of *Cappadocia*, whom he detained, and reduced his Kingdom into a Roman Province.

At his Demise the Imperial Purple was given to *Caligula*, on account of the admirable Virtues of his Father *Germanicus*, whom *Augustus* had obliged *Tiberius* to adopt; though *Tiberius* so hated him for his Popularity, that it was commonly thought, he effected his Death by Poison. *Caligula* was more like his adoptive Grandfather, than his Natural Father; running such intolerable lengths of Cruelty, that he soon became as odious as his Predecessor. He undertook one Mock-Expedition against the *Germans*; for which he ordered himself a Triumph, tho' he had hardly seen the Enemy. He was murdered at last in his Palace, and was succeeded by *Claudius*, a Prince of a middle Character; who was rather culpable for permitting Injustice than doing it. In short, *Claudius* was so stuped, that he neither excelled much in Virtue nor Vice. He was the first after *Julius Caesar*, that invaded our Island, first by *Plautus* his Consular Legate, who so harassed and distressed the *Britons*, that the Emperor, a few Days after his landing on the Island, made himself Master of great Part

of it without much Opposition; for which he acted a pompous Triumph, as if himself had conquered by Arms, what was only surrendered through Terror and Dissentions among the Natives. It is agreed on by all Historians, that his Death was effected by Poison, but by whom and in what Manner, is undecided.

*Claudius* however, was an excellent Emperor, if compared with his Successor *Nero*; who at first, indeed, set out in the Character of a great Reformer; nor are there wanting in his Life several Instances of many Civil Virtues, particularly Munificence, which he persevered in to the End, or rather increased it to Prodigality. The two Vices to which he had an utter Aversion, were Stinginess and Hypocrisy. To avoid the former he became profuse; and to discountenance the latter, he gloried in his Crimes; and always pardoned, and even caressed those, who confessed their Wickedness, from a Principle he had imbibed, that there was no such thing as Chastity among Men, only some had a Talent of hiding their vicious Thoughts under the Cloak of Sanctity. But the Sequel of his Reign was little else than a Series of complicated Evils both to *Christians* and *Pagans*. To the former of these he was a bitter Enemy, as we are told by great Numbers of Authors. *Suetonius*, in his Life of *Nero*, expresses himself thus: *Very severe Torturers were inflicted on the Christians, a Set of Men of a new and mischievous Superstition.* In his Time the *Britons* rebelled, and the *Romans* suffered the Loss of near 70000 Citizens and Allies. At last he wantoned with Power, threw off all Care of Government, and devoted himself wholly to libidinous Pleasures and theatrical Performances, in which he sung and acted his Parts among common Stage Players; till the State being no longer able to bear a Prince abandoned to Luxury, Lust, and Cruelty, another Rebellion was raised against him nearer Home. The Senate judged him an Enemy, and demanded him for Punishment. Upon which he fled secretly out of the City to a little Country-house of *Sporus* his Freedman, about four Miles from *Rome*; where after much Whining and Lamentation, he dispatched himself, being assisted in the Deed by one of his Attendants.

( To be continued. )