

established, had persecuted the *Christians* and other Dissenters: But *Adrian*, being of an easier Temper, tolerated all religious Sects, and preferred Peace, both at Home and Abroad, to every other Consideration. In his private Character, he was courteous and humane, a good Companion and a hearty Friend. *Ælius Verus* was appointed for his Successor, but he did not long survive his Adoption. After him *Adrian* adopted *Antonius*, afterwards surnamed *Pius*, upon Condition that *Antonius* should adopt *Marcus Antonius* the Philosopher, and *Lucius Verus*, the Son of *Ælius Verus* deceased. These two were afterwards Emperors both together.

*Antonius Pius* was a Prince, whose Character came little short of that of *Trajan*. He reduced the *Britons*, *Moors*, *Germans*, *Jews*, and other revolting Provinces, to Subjection. He diminished the Taxes, and kept the Collectors of them within due Bounds: To supply which Deficiency in the Revenue, he retrenched the Salaries of such Officers as were of no other Use in their Places but to receive their Pay, it being his usual Saying, *That nothing was more shameful, nothing more cruel, than for those Vermin to gnaw the State, who contributed nothing to its Increase by their Labours*. He was much beloved at *Rome*, and of great Authority with foreign Nations; tho' he was so great a Lover of Peace, that he would frequently repeat that Sentence of *Scipio*; *I had rather save one Citizen, than kill a Thousand Enemies*. He left the public Treasuries rich, but exhausted his own Wealth by his wonderful Liberality. When he lay on his Death-bed, he sent for *Marcus Antonius*, his adopted Son and Successor, in whose Education he had bestowed uncommon Expence and Pains, and recommended to his Care the Government, and his Daughter *Faustina*. Then he ordered the golden Image of *Fortune*, which was always kept in the Emperor's Bed-Chamber, to be carried into *Marcus's* Apartment; after which, his Fever increasing, he grew delirious, and in a few Days expired.

*Marcus Antoninus* (who had married the Daughter of *Antoninus Pius*) and *Lucius Verus*, Son-in-law to *Marcus* by marrying his Daughter, held the Imperial Dignity as Colleagues, and were the first two that reigned over *Rome* at one Time. *Marcus* was very much addicted to the Study of Philosophy, but not to that Degree, as to forget he was an Emperor. A Rebellion breaking out among the *Parthians*,

*Lucius* undertook an Expedition against them, while *Marcus* continued at *Rome*, intent on Affairs of Government, and making such Laws, as were wholesome to the Commonwealth. When the *Parthians* were subdued, the Title of *Parthicus* was given to both the Emperors: *Marcus*, indeed, modestly refused it at first, as he had no Share in the Victory, but afterwards was prevailed on to accept it: *Lucius* has but an indifferent Character given him by Historians; who report, that he devoted himself greatly to Sloth and Debauchery, especially while he resided in *Syria*; committing the Care of the War to his Lieutenant-Generals: But *Marcus* winked at his Son-in-law's Failings, and endeavoured to make Compensation for them by his own extraordinary Diligence and Industry. After the Conquest of *Armenia*, *Parthia*, and *Media*, *Lucius* returned to *Rome*, with great Reluctancy, as he did not like to be so near his Brother, whose grave philosophical Morals were not very agreeable to a Man of his loose Conduct. When he had reigned Eleven Years with his Brother, he was taken suddenly ill, when they were both together in the Chariot, of which Illness he soon died; which gave Rise to a Suspicion, that *Marcus* had poisoned him; because *Lucius* designed to make the like Attempt against *Marcus*.

*Marcus* being left sole Emperor, applied himself to the Administration of Affairs with redoubled Diligence. He quelled the rebellious Provinces, conquered the *Persians*, recovered *Mesopotamia*, beat the *Germans*, after a great, a painful, and a clamorous War; and exerted all the Qualities of a brave Soldier, and a temperate and wise Governor. His Principles of Stoic Philosophy may be seen in his Works, still extant. This is that *Marcus* of whom we find such honourable Mention in the ensuing History; and whose pathetic Speech on his Death-bed, concerning his Son *Commodus*, is given by *Herodian*: To whom I shall now admit the Reader, without detaining him with any longer Preamble; and reserve whatever else may be necessary to give him sufficient Light into the *Roman* Affairs, for my Notes on *Herodian*; where each Circumstance worthy Notice, shall be explained, as it occasionally offers.

[*Herodian's History of his own Times, or of the Empire after Marcus, will be continued in this Magazine.*]

N E W S.