you become angry, you appear to have made an admission. (I do not touch on
the Greeks, among whom not just liberty but license too went unpunished; or,
if anyone took notice, he avenged words with words.)

"What was particularly exempt, and had no one to disparage it, was to pub-
lish about those whom death had removed from hatred or favor. For surely it is
not the case that, by my having Cassius and Brutus armed and holding the plains
of Philippi, I am inflaming the people in public addresses with civil war as my
motive? Is it not rather the case that, slain as they were seventy years ago, they
for their part not only come to be known by their images—which not even the
victor abolished—but retain some part of their memory among writers in ex-
actly the same way? Posternity pays to every man his due repute; and, if condem-
nation is closing in on me, there will be no lack of those who remember not
merely Cassius and Brutus but also myself." Then, leaving the senate, he ended
his life by fasting.

The cremation of his books by the aediles was proposed by the fathers; but
they survived, having been concealed and published. Wherefore it is pleasant to
deride all the more the insensibility of those who, by virtue of their present pow-
erfulness, believe that the memory even of a subsequent age too can be exting-
guished. On the contrary, the influence of punished talents swells, nor have foreign
kings, or those who have resorted to the same savagery, accomplished anything
except disrepute for themselves and for their victims glory.

Yet in the arraignment of defendants the year was so constant that, on the days
of the Latin Festival, Drusus as prefect of the City, having mounted the tribunal
for taking the auspices, was approached by Calpurnius Salvianus with a charge
against Sextus Marius. That was openly berated by Caesar and was the reason for
Salvianus’ exile. Against the Cyziceni was publicly cast the imputation of an in-
difference to the ceremonial offices of Divine Augustus, with additional charges
of violence toward Roman citizens; and they lost the freedom which they had
earned in the war with Mithridates, when, despite their being invested, the king
was beaten off as much by their own steadfastness as by the garrison of Lucul-
lus. Fonteius Capito, however, whose concern as proconsul had been Asia, was
acquitted, it being discovered that the charges against him had been fabricat-
ed by Vibius Serenus. Yet that did no harm to Serenus, whom public hatred
made increasingly more secure. Each accuser, the more exposed he was, was as if

35 62. Cordus means "by the simple fact that I have written a history which describes Cas-
sius and Brutus and the Battle of Philippi." For the battle see 1.2.11.

36 63. Not the permanent prefecture of the City, whose history is given below at 6.11
(g.v.), but a temporary appointment held by an upper-class young man (like Germanicus’
son here) while the regular magistrates were attending the Latin Festival on the Alban
Mount outside Rome (OCD 1239 s.v. praefectus urb.). The Latin Festival was a movable
festival held on several consecutive days in the second quarter of each year.

37 64. The Third Mithridatic War, c. 74–72 B.C.

38 65. C. Fonteius Capito, consul in a.d. 12, was proconsul of Asia in (probably) 23/24.

34 With Cornelius Cossus and Asinius Agrippa as consuls,60 Cremutius Cordus was
arraigned on a charge which was new and heard only then for the first time—
that, having published annals and praised M. Brutus, he had spoken of C. Cassius
as the last of the Romans. The prosecutors were Satrius Secundus and Pinarius
Natta, clients of Sejanus. That was ruinous for the accused, as was the calous look
with which Caesar received his defense, on which Cremutius, fixed upon leav-
ing life, embarked in this fashion:

"It is my words, conscript fathers, that are criticized, so completely am I in-
nocent of deeds; but not even they were directed at the princes or the princep’s
parent, whom the law of treason embraces. I am said to have praised Brutus and
Cassius, whose achievements, though many have compiled them, no one has re-
called without honor.

3 "Titus Livius, quite brilliant as he is for eloquence and credibility,61 first of all
elevated Cn. Pompeius with such praises that Augustus called him ‘a Pompeian’;
and that was no obstacle to their friendship. Scipio, Afranius, this very Cassius
himself, this very Brutus—nowhere did he name them as ‘bandits’ and ‘parricides’
(the designations which are now imposed) but often as distinguished men.

4 Asinius Pollio’s writings transmits an exceptional memorial of the same individu-
als; Messalla Corvinus used to proclaim Cassius his ‘commander’; and each con-
tinued to thrive in wealth and honor. To the book of Marcus Cicero in which
Cato was exalted to the sky, how else did the dictator Caesar reply than with a
responding speech as if before a jury?

5 “Antonius’ letters, Brutus’ public addresses contain abuse against Augustus
which is admittedly false but of much acerbity; the poems of Bibaculus and Cat-
ullus, packed with insults of the Caesars, can still be read; but Divine Julius him-
self, Divine Augustus himself bore and ignored them all—whether with more
restraint or wisdom, I could not easily say: what is spurned tends to abate; but, if

60. The father of Cossum Cornelius Lentulus was consul in 1 B.c., his brother in a.d.
26 (4.46.1); M. Asinius Agrippa was grandson of Asinius Pollio (1.12.4 n.) and brother of
the consul of 23 (4.1.1 n.).

61. The reference is to the historian Livy (for whom see pp. xix–xx).