

The object of the play is also apparent from what Philo has to say in the opening words that greet the ear where he calls Antony a "strumpet's fool." He evidently sees the danger that is lurking over Antony, and from his description of his master he doubtless regrets his becoming the "bellows and fan to cool a gipsy's lust."

Antony, like Prince Harry, tried to throw off the evil influences that were lurking around him, for (Act I Scene II) his noble spirit seems to prompt him when he says:

"I must from this enchanting queen

break off;

Ten thousand harms more than the

ills I know,

My idleness doth hatch."

His generous nature is also shown by his accepting in good faith marriage with Cæsar's sister, Octavia, but his weakness is apparent when he deserts his squadron in the midst of an important seafight to fly after Cleopatra.

But after his sun has set and he has already shaken hands with fortune, we find him still a noble ruin, which is shown by his treatment of his once trusted friend, Enobarbus, who has deserted Antony and gone to Cæsar's camp. He makes his generosity known by directing his servant thus:

"Go, Eros, send his treasure after, do it:

Detain no jot, I charge thee, write to him,

I will subscribe—gentle adieus and greetings.

Say, that I wish he never find more cause,

To change a master."