

**CHARICLES: A  
DRAMATIC POEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649428601

Charicles: A Dramatic Poem by Josiah Phillips

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOSIAH PHILLIPS**

**CHARICLES: A  
DRAMATIC POEM**



CHARICLES:

A DRAMATIC POEM.

BY THE

AUTHOR OF LYTERIA.

BOSTON:  
TICKNOR AND FIELDS.

MDCCLVI.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1853, by  
J. P. QUINCY,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

RIVERSIDE, CAMBRIDGE:  
STEREOTYPED AND PRINTED BY  
J. O. BOWEN AND COMPANY.

## PREFACE.

---

THE structure of the following drama is intended to resemble that of the Greek tragedy. It is written upon an event, rather than a plot; the scene is laid in the open air before the temporary abode of royalty, and the action is limited to a single night. The attempt has been made to invest a character with something of the dignity and moral power of the tragic chorus. The division into acts is in compliance with modern usage; the pauses being no longer than those that must be supposed in many of the best models of classic composition.





## INTRODUCTION.

---

THERE are few instances of retributive justice more solemnly striking, than may be gathered from notices of the death of the third Caesar, in the writings of Suetonius and Tacitus. A vigorous constitution, strengthened by the simple habits of early life, enabled Tiberius for a time to resist, not only the diseases that his later excesses poured upon him, but also the poison that was covertly administered by those in the interest of his successor. Stung and nettled by the taunts and execrations that arose about him, we read, that the dying tyrant would at one time strive to conceal the depth of his infamies, and at another, for very despair, would publish them in reckless bravado to the world. Feeble in body and a prey to superstitious fears, Tiberius journeyed for the last time towards Rome. Frightened by a fancied prodigy, and seized by mortal illness, that he dared not acknowledge to those about him, the emperor, when within sight of the city, turned suddenly, and gave the order to press back again to Capri. By increasing the extravagance of his debaucheries, by an occasional display of physical power, and by the constant scorn with which he affected to treat his physician, Charicles, the unhappy man sought to disguise his true condition from Caligula and his adherents. In vain, however, was every artifice—his death was too surely seen to be approaching; and finally Charicles acknowledged to those about him that

the end must soon come. For this event measures were immediately taken—councils were held in private and despatches sent to the army and its commanders. Efforts were once made to induce Tiberius to appoint a successor; but even in the agonies of death, he grasped the signet ring strongly upon his hand, and refused to allow it to be taken. Yet not only was the tortured monarch made to realize the plots formed against him, and the contempt of those who should have been bound to his interest by personal favor and lavish liberality; but a punishment of strange severity was reserved for him. For upon recovering from a fainting fit, that had been mistaken for death, he found Caligula clothed with the insignia of royalty, and surrounded by a band of fawning courtiers. The whole party, paralyzed with terror at his unexpected resuscitation, for a time gazed stupidly upon the maddened tyrant. Finally, Tiberius was thrown upon a bed, where, at the order of Macro, he was deprived of life by suffocation.

Most of the incidents, as will be seen by a reference to the note at the close of the volume, are to be found in the historians already mentioned. A slight dramatic license has been taken in their arrangement and amplification.

The characters of Tiberius and his successor are intended to be consistent with their historical representation—the former having, as we are assured, something of the scholar and the poet mingled with the voluptuary, the tyrant, and the atheist; and the latter screening at times his detestable qualities under a crafty pretence of modesty and moderation.

In writing the part of Charicles, who is simply mentioned as a physician in the train of Tiberius, not employed to prescribe, but assisting with friendly advice, the imagination may be allowed some liberty. So likewise in Eunna, the wife of Macro, historically known as mistress and promised empress of Caligula.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

TIBERIUS.  
CAIUS CÆSAR CALIGULA.  
CHARICLES.  
LUCIUS.  
CRASSUS.  
ENNIA.

*The scene is an open space before the villa of Lucullus. At the base of the hill upon which the villa stands, are buildings for the accommodation of soldiers, retainers, and others. The action commences about sunset.*