

of applying the parchments or papyrus on which they were originally written, to their own useless and oftentimes frivolous effusions.

Numerous instances of these profane and vandalic obliterations of useful chronicles and scientific essays have been discovered within the last four or five centuries, although the practise itself, of erasing manuscripts to use the parchments for other literary compositions, seems to have obtained at a much earlier period, and is stated to be coeval with the days of CATALLUS, or about the end of the 7th century of the foundation of Rome.

The restoration of Palimpsests—which is the name under which these defaced papyri are known—has now long been the favorite study of some of the most learned men in Germany, Italy and other parts of Europe, whose researches may yet bring to light new and important historical discoveries, and eventually realize the hope expressed by Gibbon, that some of the lost passages of the Perpetual Edict—of which we now possess but a few scattered fragments—may still be restored.

JUSTINIAN, the Atlas on whom rests the ponderous tomes of Roman Jurisprudence, the legal Hercules of his age, if the expression may be allowed as applicable to the magnitude of the works accomplished under him ; Justinian after a reign of 38 years died A. D. 565. The epoch becomes the more memorable, from the events which followed, for scarcely had his clay mouldered in the dust than the glory of the splendid Monument of Roman Law which he had reared became eclipsed, and the Code and the Pandects gave way to barbarian power and barbarian laws, that usurped their place and well nigh threatened them with complete annihilation.

They in fact disappeared and remained in a partial state of oblivion until towards the middle of the 12th