

Ancient History.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, BY W. R. RIGG, ESQ.,
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ONT.

(Q.) 111. Sketch briefly the events subsequent to Alexander's death, and state among whom his empire was divided and the part obtained by each.

(A.) After the death of Alexander the Great, Perdiccas was appointed regent; he shortly after perished by the hands of an assassin, and Antipater succeeded to the office. The Athenians, taking advantage of these disturbances, again endeavored to throw off the Macedonian yoke, but were unsuccessful. Another revolution on the decease of Antipater placed the regency in the hands of Polyperchon, who, chiefly through the assistance of Demetrius Poliorcetes, the son of Antigonus, defeated Cassander, the son of Antipater. At last, after a long alternation of successes and reverses, the united army of Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus and Seleucus, gained at Ipsus in Phrygia, a decisive victory over Antigonus and Poliorcetes, in which the former was slain, and the latter escaped with difficulty to Greece, B. C. 301. The dominions of Alexander were now divided into four large kingdoms, as had been predicted by the prophet Daniel, "the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones, toward the four winds of heaven." Egypt and the South were allotted to Ptolemy, son of Lagus; Syria and the East were apportioned to Seleucus; Thrace and Bithynia and the North were assigned to Lysimachus; and Macedon, Greece and the West to Cassander, son of Antipater.

(Q.) 112. Sketch briefly the Samnite and Latin wars.

(A.) The Campanians, who were at war with the Samnites, applied to Rome for assistance, which was readily granted; the war lasted two years, B. C. 343-341, and was brought to a close by Decius inflicting a signal defeat on the Samnites, 30,000 of them being left dead on the field. The Roman arms were next turned against the Latins, who had long been their allies, and Latium was subjugated B. C. 338. A second and longer struggle with the Samnites then ensued, and a signal disgrace was inflicted on the Romans at the Caudine Forks, B. C. 321, the army being compelled to surrender and pass under the yoke. But the Romans soon retrieved their position, and in the third Samnite war the decisive battle of Sentinum crushed the hopes of the Samnites, and Samnium was reduced to submission, after a struggle of fifty years, B. C. 290.

(Q.) 113. Who was the last enemy the Romans had to encounter before they became masters of all Italy?

(A.) Tarentum was a Lacedaemonian colony of the eighth century B. C., established with many other towns in the south of the Italian peninsula, hence called Magna Graecia. Involved in a contest with the Romans, they sought and obtained the aid of Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, a region lying west of Thessaly and Macedonia. He came to their assistance with 30,000 men, and success at first crowned his efforts on the fields of Heraclea and Asculum, but after six years he was compelled to yield to the ascendancy of Rome, being defeated at the battle of Beneventum by Curius Dentatus, who drove him from Italy, B. C. 275. The Tarentines being left to their own resources, the fall of

their capital decided the fate of Southern Italy, and left Rome the mistress of the entire peninsula.

(Q.) 114. Give the date of the translation of the Septuagint, and the name of the Egyptian monarch that caused it to be done.

(A.) B. C. 277, during the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus.

(Q.) 115. In whose reign was the temple at Samaria built?

(A.) In the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus, on Mount Gerizim.

(Q.) 116. When did Macedon and Greece become a Roman province, and by what name was it known? Give brief particulars.

(A.) Antigonus Gonatus, son of Demetrius Poliorcetes recovered the Macedonian throne, and founded a dynasty that lasted for more than 70 years. The last Kings were Philip V. and Perseus; the former had incurred the enmity of the Romans in consequence of having entered into a treaty with Hannibal against them, and on the conclusion of the second Punic war hostilities were declared against Philip. The Macedonian power was completely broken at Cyncephala, B. C. 197, and Perseus, the son and successor of Philip, was overthrown and taken prisoner by Paulus Aemilius, at the bloody and decisive battle of Pydna, B. C. 168. Finally, Andronicus, an adventurer, pretending to be the son of Perseus, was overcome by Metellus; and in the same year, B. C. 146, Corinth was burnt by Mummius after the victory of Leucopetra, and Greece became a tributary province, under the name of Achaia.

(Q.) 117. Who were the Gracchi, what did they try to effect, and what was their fate?

(A.) They were two brothers, the elder named Tiberius Sempronius, and the younger Caius Sempronius Gracchus. They sought the revival of the Licinian or Agrarian Laws, which had fallen into disuse. The elder was slain by an armed body of the Senators (Optimates) during a tumult, B. C. 133, and in B. C. 121 the younger experienced the same fate.

(Q.) 118. Who were the Maccabees, and what brought them into notice? Sketch their history.

(A.) After the division of Alexander's empire, Palestine remained under the rule of Egypt for a century; it then became a subject of contention between Egypt and Syria, and suffered severely in the wars of Antiochus the Great with the Egyptian monarchs, falling into his power B. C. 198, when he defeated the Egyptians at Panium. His successor, Antiochus the Fourth, surnamed Epiphanes, restrained by the Romans from pursuing his conquests, in Egypt, revenged himself on Judaea, took the capital, Jerusalem, by storm, slew 40,000 of its inhabitants, and led an equal number into captivity, B. C. 170. He offered up swine on the altar to destroy the Jewish veneration for their religious rites, and in B. C. 168 he issued an edict enjoining uniformity of worship conformable to the Syrian idolatry. These and other oppressions roused the Jews, and Matthathias, a priest, offered the first resistance to the tyranny of Antiochus; and when age rendered him incapable of fatigue, he transferred the command to his third and bravest son Judas, surnamed Maccabeus, whence the family derived the name of Maccabees. In a succession of victories he routed the Syrian armies, but was at length slain, and Jonathan, the youngest brother, maintained the contest for independence, which was acknowledged by Syria B. C. 143. He was