

HISTORY PRIMERS

ROME.

INTRODUCTION.

1. How Roman History explains Modern Europe.—If we look at the nations of Modern Europe we at once notice that they differ very much from one another in language, laws, manners and customs. Yet we see also, in spite of this difference, that they have a great likeness to one another, which parts all of them from the nations of the other quarters of the world. Now the great thing which Roman History tells us is, how these nations of Europe grew up, and how they came to be so different from one another, and yet how, though one nation differs from another, the people of Europe seem to be all almost the same, if we compare them with the people of Asia or Africa.

The great reason which makes the people of Europe have so much in common is, that they all owe a great deal to the laws and customs and ideas of the Romans who conquered and governed them; and the reason why they differ from one another is that some owe more than others to the Romans; some have kept more of the ideas of the Romans; others have kept more of the ideas of the Germans, who broke up the government of the Romans, and founded new nations in Europe. So you see that the history of Rome will explain to you how the nations of Europe grew up as they are at present.

2. How Roman History teaches about old times.—But besides seeing how the nations of Europe grew up under the influence of Rome, you will also