

tum, an ally of Rome, and war was declared. Hannibal began his famous march towards Italy; three years sufficed to conduct him from New Carthage to Cannae. Shortly after came the first check to his brilliant career, but he had proved himself a great general, by the strategic tact which he displayed whether attacking or standing his ground. At length all supplies were cut off from Spain, his brother Hasdrubal lay dead, the vacillating course of the Carthaginian government had borne its fruits, Hannibal was recalled to Africa to combat the danger he had tried to avert. Then, indeed, he met a foeman worthy of his steel in the person of Publius Cornelius Scipio, a dashing, brilliant young officer who inspired enthusiasm in the breasts of his followers. A skilled diplomatist, an accomplished speaker, the latter won the hearts of his soldiers and led his hosts to victory. He was the hero, the idol of the Roman people, his name was upon the lips of all as their future deliverer. After Hannibal had cut off in their prime the flower of the Roman people, after many a general had fallen before him, he met his conqueror at Zama and the fate of Carthage was decided. She passed under the control of Rome and her noblest son, Hannibal, was hounded from one quarter of the globe to the other and at length he resolved to put an end to his own existence. Only after his death did Rome breathe freely. He was a true scion of the old Carthaginian stock, ere they had fallen victims to the enervating influence of wealth and luxury.

After the close of the war, a new life was infused into the decaying members of the Punic republic. There appeared a smouldering heap of her former greatness, which rapidly burst forth into a brilliant flame only to be once more extinguished. Rome dreaded her former rival, she was ever on the alert against her, and again had she recourse to treachery to crush her forever, lest she herself might perish in the conflict. Rome instigated Masinissa to encroach upon the Carthaginian territory and then endeavored to impose intolerable conditions upon them. The Carthaginian people goaded on to desperation resolved to make one last supreme attempt to preserve their lives, their honor and their country. The contest was short, sharp and decisive; Rome was the

victor, Carthage was delivered up to the flames, the plough was passed over her surface and a curse was pronounced upon him who would attempt to rebuild the city. The tears of shame shed by the manly victorious Scipio Aemilianus, when he was forced to execute the dread sentence "Delenda est Carthago" proves that all honor and glory is not due to the conquerors. That Rome was victorious is not surprising, for this was surely the golden age of the republic. Her senate was noted for its wise decrees; her citizens for their concord, devotedness, and disinterestedness; their manners were as yet pure and simple. Her patricians tilled the soil and anon was a Cincinnatus taken from the plough to become a leader of armies. Her soldiers were accustomed to hardships, knew not fear, and every man of them believed that Rome was called to rule the whole earth. A nation composed of such men can bid defiance to the world. Carthage, on the contrary, on account of her harsh and deceitful government, stood alone without a friend in this her supreme struggle. Her aristocratic rulers, haughty and purse-proud, relied upon their gold and silver to fight their battles, but all the mercenaries that their filthy lucre could procure were powerless to withstand the constancy, morality and patriotism of the Roman legions.

To realize the paramount importance of this prolonged struggle between Rome and Carthage, it suffices to bear in mind that two of the world's greatest generals, Hannibal and Scipio figured in it and that by it the future destiny of mankind was decided. For by the downfall of Carthage, men escaped the dreadful fate of being the abject slaves of a degenerate, despotic republic whose only object was grasping, greedy gain, and became the free citizens of a free state that respected their rights and was accomplishing the designs of Divine Providence in uniting all nations that they might receive Him who was to bestow upon them true freedom.

Upon the ashes of Punic Carthage, there was founded by Augustus, a new city which vied in wealth and splendour with Rome herself. Carthage, once the scene of the horrid rites of Baal and Astarte, shortly after resounded with hymns chanted in honor of the true God and was made dear to the heart of every