

the reign of Augustus. The total number of this body, which subsequently proved so powerful and dangerous, was at this time about eight thousand. The army, too, was now largely recruited from the provinces—these levies being known as *auxilia*. Italy had suffered so much from civil strife that its population was greatly reduced, and it became increasingly difficult to fill up the ranks of the legions with Romans or Italians.

During the long reign of Augustus many minor wars were waged. Very soon after the battle of Actium a rising took place among the Astures and Cantabri in the north-west of Spain. Augustus himself in 27 B.C. went on this campaign, and carried on the war for three years. A temporary submission on the part of the Cantabri was followed by another revolt which was suppressed by Agrippa in 19 B.C. *Wars against the Cantabri.*

Border struggles were also carried on about this time in Egypt and Arabia, and against the Ethiopians and Garamantes. The Parthians, in 20 B.C., to the great joy of the Romans, returned the standards which they had taken in the wars against Crassus and Antony. *Restoration of the standards.*

To the north and east of Italy, in the Raetian and Graian Alps, were many large tribes, whose warlike disposition made them turbulent neighbours. Against these, war was waged in 25 B.C. and continued until they were reduced to subjection in 13 B.C. Disturbances, however, began elsewhere along the Roman frontier, in Gaul and Germany. Some of the German tribes crossed the Rhine and entered Gaul, and Augustus went (16 B.C.) with an army to check their inroads. At the end of three years he returned, leaving the command in the hands of his wife's son Drusus. *The tribes of the Raetian and Graian Alps.*

The war along the German frontier that now followed is of more than passing importance. It marks the first serious attempt made by Rome to extend her eastern frontier beyond the Rhine to the Elbe, and even to the Weser. Germany was then for the most part an uncultivated country, in which dense forests and numerous morasses existed. The German tribes lived a free, roving, unsettled life, and were remarkable for their love of freedom and the purity of their domestic life. *The Germanic War.*