

gam. in gratitude for his long continued success. He then returned to Babylon, and while engaged in plans for improving his future capital and restoring the ancient Assyrian empire to its former supremacy, he was suddenly attacked by a fatal disease, of which he died, B. C. 323.

(Q.) 109. Give the particulars relative to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Punic Wars.

(A.) The Mamertines, a mercenary body of Italian soldiers, had taken forcible possession of the city of Messana, B. C. 281. The Syracusans, under King Hiero, as well as the Carthaginians, attacked them, when the Mamertines solicited the assistance of Rome, which was granted B. C. 264, it being necessary to remove so powerful an enemy from the neighborhood of Magna Græcia, then recently conquered. The war ended after 23 years' duration. The reduction of Agrigentum was the first great exploit of the Romans, B. C. 262; then followed the first naval battle of Mylae, B. C. 260, in which the Consul Duillius defeated a nation long the mistress of the sea. Scipio expelled the Carthaginians from Corsica, while Regulus transferred the war from Sicily to Africa, where he was ultimately defeated and taken prisoner by the superior skill of Xanthippus, a Spartan general who commanded the Carthaginians, B. C. 255. The war was then confined to Sicily, where, in B. C. 250, the Consul Cæcilius defeated the Carthaginians in a great battle at Panormus. At length the Roman victory of Ægusa reduced the Carthaginians to seek a peace, B. C. 241, which was granted on conditions, "that they should evacuate Sicily and the islands between it and Carthage, abstain from war against Hiero and his allies; restore all Roman prisoners without ransom, and pay 2,300 in ten yearly instalments."

The temple of Janus was now shut for the first time since the reign of Numa, B. C. 255, and in Sicily Rome made her first foreign conquest.

It was in Spain that the cause of the 2nd Punic War arose. A Carthaginian kingdom had been founded there by Hamilcar, father of the celebrated Hannibal; the latter having been elected to the command of the army in Spain, pushed the Carthaginian dominions up the Ebro, and captured the city of Saguntum, an ally of Rome, and in a short time completed the conquest of the peninsula. Rome then declared war, and Hannibal adopting the policy of the Romans, resolved upon a daring movement to carry the war into the heart of the enemy's country by a march from Spain into Italy. Turning the eastern point of the Pyrenees, he crossed the Rhone, marched up its valley to the island of the Allobroges, north of the Isere, ascended that river to the valley of Chambery, and climbed over the Alps by the pass of St. Bernard. The march took about four months, and cost him 23,000 men, B. C. 218. Once in Italy he lost no time; with 30,000 men he defeated the Consul Scipio at the Ticinus; he next vanquished Sempronius at the Trebia, near Placentia, and in the spring of B. C. 217 he passed into the basin of the Arno, and routed the Romans in a fog by "reedy Trasimene," the Roman commander, the Consul C. Flaminius, being among the slain. A disaster worse than any yet undergone awaited the Roman army; on the bloody field of Cannæ, strewn with the golden rings of Roman knighthood, Hannibal won a signal victory, leaving 47,000 of the Romans dead on the field, B. C. 216. Marcellus inflicted the first check on Hannibal, near Nola, and shortly after he lost Capua and Tarentum B. C. 207. His

brother Hasdrubal marching to his assistance with 60,000 men was worsted and slain near the Metaurus, and Hannibal, after keeping possession of Italy for 15 years, during which time neither money nor assistance reached him from home, was recalled to Carthage to oppose the armies of Scipio, as the latter having driven the Carthaginian armies out of Spain, had transferred the Seat of War into Africa. The fate of Carthage was sealed at Zama B. C. 202, and Hannibal was defeated. Rigorous terms of peace were imposed on the vanquished city; all her foreign possessions were to be given up, her munitions and ships of war to be surrendered, a tribute of 10,000 talents to be paid in 50 years, and she was bound to engage in no war without the consent of Rome. Scipio returned in triumph and was henceforth distinguished by the surname of Africanus.

The 3rd Punic war originated in faction: Cato the Censor infatuated by a blind hatred of Carthage, which had rejected his proffered mediation between it and Masinissa, who was continually annoying the Carthaginians, and encroaching on their territory, and partly by fear of the growing power of Carthage, which had to some extent recovered its former prosperity during the 50 years that followed the conclusion of the 2nd Punic war, finished every speech that he made in the Senate with the words "Carthage est delenda." The disputes with Masinissa were made the pretext for hostilities, B. C. 149. The Carthaginians made some concessions, and when this was done, Rome further demanded, that Carthage should be razed to the ground, and that the inhabitants should build a new city for themselves in the interior. The Carthaginians resolved to perish rather than submit to such insolence.

During three years the devoted city held out, but at last Scipio Æmilianus gained entrance within its walls, B. C. 146, and for six days had to conquer every inch of ground, and in the end the Carthaginians set fire to the city and perished in the ruins. The city was more than twenty miles in circumference, and contained more than 700,000 inhabitants. Its wealth may be estimated by the plunder collected by Scipio, amounting to £1,500,000, he is also said to have sold 50,000 into slavery, who escaped from the carnage. It has been conjectured that Timbuctoo may have been founded by Carthaginians who escaped from the conflagration. Carthage, as a Roman province, became Lybia.

(Q.) 110. State the two most important provisions in the Licinian Rogations, and when the different offices of government were thrown open to the plebeians.

(A.) In the year 376 B. C., Licinius Stolo and L. Sextius were chosen tribunes, and brought forward a series of Bills, known as the Licinian Rogations. After a contest of ten years, the Rogations became law, B. C. 367; the two most important provisions were, 1st, that Consuls should be elected as formerly, but that one of them should always be a plebeian; 2nd, that no man should be allowed to occupy more than 500 jugera of the public lands. Lucius Sextius Lateranus was the first plebeian Consul, and the commons having once made good their claim to this high office, were not long before they participated in the others. They were admitted to the Dictatorship B. C. 359; the Censorship B. C. 351; the Prætorship B. C. 337, and to the sacred functions of Pontiff and Augur B. C. 300.