

completed the whole circumvallation in three days ; to their own astonishment, no less than that of the besieged, as the extent was nearly forty stadia, or five miles.

At length, the tower of Antonia was taken, and all Jerusalem except the temple. John who commanded here, still persuaded himself and his partizans, that God would never suffer his holy house to become the prey of heathens, and therefore he treated with contempt repeated offers of mercy. July 17, the daily sacrifice ceased. From this time to the taking of the temple, there was little else than burnings of the various parts of the sacred structure ; some by the besieged, others by the besiegers. Titus burnt the Temple gates, plated with silver, on August 8th, and on the 10th, the whole edifice was taken and consumed by fire, the same day and month in which it had been formerly consumed by Nebuchadnezzar.

We have omitted the detail of those distresses which this city experienced from famine, from internal massacres, from zeal at once furious and false, from the effects of superstition employed to raise unfounded hopes of succour, and deluding all who suffered hope to exist. Even on the day of total destruction, six thousand persons were persuaded by a false prophet, that they should obtain deliverance ; and these perished miserably in the massacre which followed, wherein clemency was neither extended to sex nor age.

There still remained the Upper City or Zion, on which stood the Royal Palace and three towers, those of Hippicos, Phasacl, and Mariamne. Zion was assaulted from August 20th to September 7th, when the machines played so furiously on the place that the besieged were struck with a panic, and attempted to escape through the wall of circumvallation. Being there repulsed, they hid themselves in the drains, sewers and vaults of the place. The Romans entered September 8th, and notwithstanding the endeavours of Titus to the contrary, they massacred all they found. Some, however, were spared, but only to adorn the triumph of the conqueror, and be employed as slaves. The two grand rebels were also found. John submitted in a short time through hunger, and was condemned to perpetual imprisonment. Simon held out till October, and after having been led in triumph, was dragged through the streets of Rome with a rope about his neck, severely scourged, and then executed.