

the enemy and Carthage was forced to sue for peace which was granted on very severe terms.

This first war with Carthage had made Rome a power on the sea, but nearly twenty years elapsed before another great naval enterprise was undertaken. In 229, B. C., some Italian merchant ships were captured by pirates of Illyria, a country on the eastern side of the Adriatic. The Romans demanded satisfaction which was refused. Perhaps the refusal was more satisfactory to Rome, for it gave her an excuse for fitting out a vast fleet of two hundred ships which completely subdued Illyria and so brought another country under the Roman yoke.

To the Romans of this age war was the only honorable means of acquiring wealth from other nations. Trade was looked upon with the same contempt with which it is regarded by the titled snobbery of to-day. A law was passed about this time which prohibited Roman senators from owning vessels exceeding a very small burden.

The second Punic war culminating in the defeat of Hannibal at Zama was one of great land battles, but its stipulations bring us to the sea. Along with paying a sum equal to \$10,000,000 within fifty years, the

Carthaginians were forced to deliver all their navy with the exception of ten triremes, to the Romans. All that magnificent fleet, numbering upwards of five hundred ships was burned by Scipio in view of the Carthaginians. We can scarcely realize how mortifying that sight was to a people whose standards so lately dominated nearly all Italy. During this war Rome also reduced Syracuse. This event is of special interest, for the great talents of Archimedes were employed in the defence of that city, against the Roman fleet.

When the fifty years required to pay the war indemnity had elapsed, the insatiable Romans sought fresh excuses for hostilities against Carthage.

Masinissa, a king of Numidia in alliance with Rome, was encouraged to harass Carthage and through his machinations Rome soon found the excuse she so much desired. War was again declared against Carthage, and after a terrific struggle, in which both peoples suffered severely, Carthage was utterly destroyed. So perished one of the greatest sea powers of all time.

In the same year Rome also destroyed the great and wealthy city of Corinth.

