

tunity of indulging his favorite inclinations. The forces of the two states met about five miles from Rome. While the armies were awaiting the signal for the battle, the Alban general, stepping into the space between them, proposed to decide the dispute by single combat. To this proposition Tullus agreed.

5. There were in each army three twin brothers, all remarkable for their courage, strength, and activity, and to them it was resolved to commit the management of the combat. The Roman brothers were called Horatii and the Albans Curratii.

6. The champions met. Victory, which for a time appeared doubtful, at last seemed to decide against the Romans. Two of their champions lay dead on the field, and the third seemed by flight to beg for mercy. Defeat was however only apparent. It soon became evident that this flight of the surviving Roman was a pretence in order that, by separating his antagonists, he might have an opportunity of engaging them singly. Turning suddenly upon the foremost of the Curratii, he laid him dead at his feet. The second instantly shared his fate. Fatigued and disabled by his wounds, the third slowly advanced to offer an easy victory. He was slain almost unresisting, while the conqueror exclaimed "Two have I already sacrificed to the manes of my brothers; a third will I offer up to my country."

7. Tullus Hostilius reigned thirty-two years. It is said by some that he was killed by lightning. Others, with more probability, assert that he died by treason. He was succeeded by Ancus Martius.

8. Ancus, who was the grandson of Numa, seemed to make that king the object of his imitation. He cultivated