

CHAPTER SIXTH.

THE EMPIRE.

TOPICS: *The Twelve Cæsars. — Constantine. — Division of the Western Empire in 476. — Fall of the Eastern Empire in 453.*

SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

- I. — Octavius, having become emperor, took the name of Augustus and ruled wisely. He was the second of the twelve Cæsars. After him came Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero, all four of the adoptive family of Augustus — able administrators but cruel princes.
Military anarchy successively placed on the throne in one year, Galba, Otho and Vitellus who were assassinated by their enemies. Vespasian founded the Flavian dynasty, and repaired the evils of the civil war. Titus was his worthy successor; Domitian was an execrable prince.
- II. — Constantine secured the triumph of Christianity in the Empire and founded Constantinople where he established himself with his court.
- III. — After the death of Constantine, the barbarians invaded the Roman Empire, gradually settled there and in 476, took Rome, thus becoming masters of the West. The Eastern Empire, of which Constantinople was the Capital, lasted till 1453.

LESSON.

I. — Establishment of the Empire.—49. Rome exhausted by civil wars and longing for peace, hailed the advent of Octavius. He was a peaceful and wise ruler and