

Levant, then shrank to this side of the Euphrates, and finally within the limits drawn above. . . . Syria is the north end of the Arabian world. . . . The population of Syria has always been essentially Semitic [see SEMITES]. . . . Syria's position between two of the oldest homes of the human race made her the passage for the earliest intercourse and exchanges of civilisation. It is doubtful whether history has to record any great campaigns . . . earlier than those which Egypt and Assyria waged against each other across the whole extent of Syria [see EGYPT: ANORT B. C. 1700-1400, to B. C. 670-525]. . . . The Hittites came south from Asia Minor over Mount Taurus, and the Ethiopians came north from their conquest of the Nile. Towards the end of the great duel between Assyria and Egypt, the Scythians from north of the Caucasus devastated Syria. When the Babylonian Empire fell, the Persians made her a province of their empire, and marched across her to Egypt [see EGYPT: B. C. 525-332]. At the beginning of our era, she was overrun by the Parthians. The Persians invaded her a second time, just before the Moslem invasion of the seventh century [see MANOMETAN CONQUEST: A. D. 632-639]; she fell, of course, under the Seljuk Turks in the eleventh [see TURKS: A. D. 1063-1073, and after]; and in the thirteenth and fourteenth the Mongols thrice swept through her. Into this almost constant stream of empires and races, which swept through Syria from the earliest ages, Europe was drawn under Alexander the Great [see MACEDONIA: B. C. 334-330, and after]. . . . She was scourged during the following centuries by the wars of the Seleucids and Ptolemies, and her plains were planted all over by their essentially Greek civilisation [see SELEUCIDÆ; and JEWS: B. C. 332-167]. Pompey brought her under the Roman Empire, B. C. 65 [see ROME: B. C. 69-63; and JEWS: B. C. 166-40], and in this she remained till the Arabs took her, 634 A. D. [see MANOMETAN CONQUEST: A. D. 632-639]. The Crusaders held her for a century more [see CRUSADES: A. D. 1096-1099]. . . . Napoleon the Great made her the pathway of his ambition towards that empire on the Euphrates and Indus whose fate was decided on her plains, 1799 [see FRANCE: A. D. 1798-1799 (AUGUST—AUGUST)]. Since then, Syria's history has mainly consisted in a number of sporadic attempts on the part of the Western world to plant

upon her both their civilisation and her former religion."—George Adam Smith, *Historical Geography of the Holy Land*, bk. 1, ch. 1.

ALSO IN: C. R. Conder, *Syrian Stone Lane*—E. Reclus, *The Earth and its Inhabitants*: Asia, c. 4, ch. 9.—See, also, DAMASCUS.

SYRIA, CŒLE-. See CŒLE-SYRIA.
SYRO-CHALDEAN LANGUAGE, The. See SEMITIC LANGUAGES.

SYRTIS MAJOR AND SYRTIS MINOR.—These were the names given by the Greeks to the two gulfs (or rather the two corners of the one great gulf) which deeply indent the coast of North Africa. Syrtis Major, or the Greater Syrtis, is now known as the Gulf of Sidra, Syrtis Minor as the Gulf of Khabz, or Calcs.

SYSSITIA, The.—"The most important feature in the Cretan mode of life is the usage of the Syssitia, or public meals, of which all the citizens partook, without distinction of rank or age. The origin of this institution cannot be traced: we learn however from Aristotle that it was not peculiar to the Greeks, but existed still earlier in the south of Italy among the Enotrians. . . . At Sparta [which retained this institution, in common with Crete, to the latest times], the entertainment was provided at the expense, not of the state, but of those who shared it. The head of each family, as far as his means reached, contributed for all its members; but the citizen who was reduced to indigence lost his place at the public board. The guests were divided into companies, generally of fifteen persons, who filled up vacancies by ballot, in which unanimous consent was required for every election. No member, not even the king, was permitted to stay away, except on some extraordinary occasion, as of a sacrifice, or a lengthened chase, when he was expected to send a present to the table: such contributions frequently varied the frugal repast."—C. Thirlwall, *History of Greece*, ch. 7-8.

SZATHMAR, Treaty of (1711). See HUNGARY: A. D. 1699-1718.

SZECHENYI, and the Hungarian wakening. See HUNGARY: A. D., 1815-1844.

SZEGEDIN, Battle of (1849). See AUSTRIA: A. D. 1848-1849.

SZEGEDIN, The broken Treaty of. See TURKS (THE OTTOMANS): A. D. 1402-1451.

SZIGETH, Siege of (1566). See HUNGARY: A. D. 1526-1567.

T.

TABELLARIÆ, Leges.—"For a long period [at Rome] the votes in the Comitia were given vivâ voce . . . but voting by ballot ('per tabellas') was introduced at the beginning of the 7th century [2d century B. C.] by a succession of laws which, from their subject, were named Leges Tabellariæ. Cicero tells us that there were in all four, namely: 1. Lex Gabinia, passed B. C. 139. . . . 2. Lex Cassia, carried in B. C. 137. . . . 3. Lex Papiria, passed B. C. 131. . . . 4. Lex Caelia, passed B. C. 107."—W. Ramsay, *Manual of Roman Antiquities*, ch. 4.

TABLES, The. See SCOTLAND: A. D. 1638.
TABORITES, The. See BOHEMIA: A. D. 1419-1434.

TABREEZ, Battle of. See PERSIA: A. D. 1499-1887.

TACHIES, The. See TEXAS: THE ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

TACITUS, Roman Emperor, A. D. 275-276.

TACNA, Battle of (1880). See CHILE: A. D. 1833-1884.

TACULLIES, The. See AMERICAN ABORIGINALS: ATHAPASCAN FAMILY.

TADCASTER FIGHT (1642).—Lord Fairfax, commanding in Yorkshire for the Parliament, and having his headquarters at Tadcaster, where he had assembled a small force, was attacked by 8,000 royalists, under the Earl of Newcastle, December 7, 1642, and forced to retire, after obstinate resistance. This was one of the earliest encounters of the great English Civil War.—C. R. Markham, *Life of the Great Lord Fairfax*, ch. 8.