

not laved by an island-studded sea, which might invite the inhabitants to become a sea-faring, commercial people. It was the spirit of hostile war, and not that of friendly commerce—it was Mars and not Mercurius—that taught their *rates transilire the non tangenda ruda*. Italy had no Corinth and no Athens; for Genoa and Venice—marts of comparatively modern times—were not of Italy; for “the ancient boundary of Italy on the north was not the Alps but the Apennines.” Italy had the same temperate climate, and for the most part the same wholesome air as Greece; its rich alluvial plains and valleys called forth and rewarded the energy of man. “But while the Grecian peninsula is turned towards the east, the Italian is turned toward the west; and while the regions on which the historical development of Greece has been mainly dependent—Attica and Macedonia—look to the east, Etruria, Latium and Campania look to the west. In this way, the two peninsulas, so close neighbors and almost sisters, stand as it were averted from each other. Although the naked eye can discover from Otranto the Acroceraunian mountains, the Italians and Hellenes came into earlier and closer contact on every other pathway than on the nearest across the Adriatic Sea. In their instance, as has happened so often, the historical vocation of the nations was prefigured in the relations of the ground which they occupied; the two great stocks, on which the civilization of the ancient world grew, threw their shadow, as well as their seed, the one toward the East, the other toward the West.”*

Italy, like Greece, was a nation of small states; but these were not separated from each other by mountain barriers; for the Apennines are continuous, and their sides, as Goldsmith says, are decked with “sloping uplands.” Hence the boundaries of these states were ever changing, as the aggressive power of neighbors waxed or waned; and little progress was made in the march of political science.

The individual states, both of Greece and Italy, ultimately suffered the usual fate of such states, *i. e.*, they were overcome by a superior power. In the case of

* Mommsen's History of Rome. Page 27.