

designing men. Add to this, that they had the worst form of a republic, namely, the slave-owning.

Yet, notwithstanding, the old republics will favourably compare with contemporary monarchies, which was all that could be expected of them. If the one had its disorders and civil wars, so also had the other, and time, that puts an end to all things human, has not been more sparing to the empire of Xerxes, than to the small communities of Greece. Which of the two has left the brightest remembrance behind it, and what is known of the former but its extravagant luxury?

Again, the republic of Rome, after having lasted several hundred years, and brought the country to an unparalleled state of prosperity, ceased. The Empire succeeded, and with it began the "Decline and Fall"—the process of inversion. Did monarchy put an end to civil wars and disturbances? For a time it did, because, as the historian says, the warlike spirits had all been killed off, either in the field, or on the scaffold, and the rest were ready to submit to anything to escape their present miseries,—but during succeeding generations did it?

When the actors in these scenes of debasement could not obtain from the people that degree of respect to which their own vanity told them they were entitled, they hit upon a notable expedient. *They made themselves divinities.* The device was by no means new, but it was new at Rome, and from her has descended that extravagant worship of royalty which is seen among the nations of Europe. The most wonderful thing is, that the worship should have remained so long after the belief in the divinity has ceased.