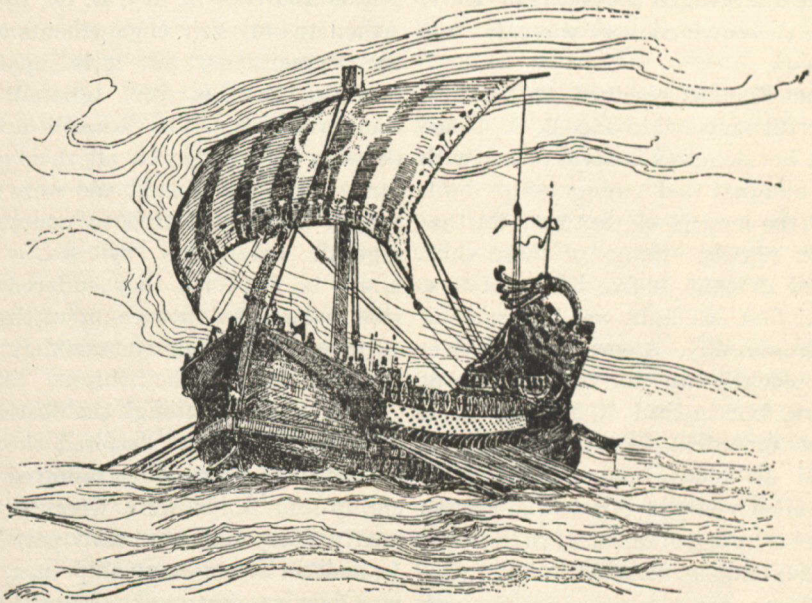


and a lasting alliance between nations whose policies were based on like principles, but no two nations could be more dissimilar in every characteristic than Rome and Carthage were at that time.

Carthage like her mother country Phoenicia had achieved all her greatness and accumulated all her wealth

martial power the national character sunk gradually to its decadence.

Rome in contrast owed all that she was to the sword. From being an obscure town on the Tiber her dominion spread over nearly all the peninsula of Italy, and to feel her foot on the necks of conquered peoples was to inflame her to more extended con-



A Ship of Tyre

by commerce and only resorted to war in defence of her interests.

It is true that in a later age she became a really warlike nation and filled the world with the fame of her victories, but all that glory was purchased at a terrible expense,

As she reached the zenith of her

quests. It is with little wonder we see Rome yet in her infancy of power, aspiring to the supremacy of the world. In 264 B. C. she took up the quarrel of some Italian bandits in Sicily and so became engaged in war with Carthage and Syracuse. A peace was soon concluded with Syra-