

into importance, and though she was the youngest of the Latin settlements, she early became the head of the League (or gathering together) of Latin villages. So you see Rome was a conqueror from the very first.

**4. The City of Rome.**—Rome was built on the banks of the river Tiber, about fifteen miles from its mouth. It was at first only a few houses upon a little hill near the river, which had a wall built round it. But as the number of people who came there grew greater, other hills close to were added to the city, and the wall was carried round them also. Not more than 150 years after Rome's founding there were seven hills within the wall, which was nearly five miles round. So Rome was sometimes called "the city of the seven hills."

**5. The People of Rome.**—The city grew in numbers, because men came and lived within the wall to be safe from their enemies. Some of the men were merchants, and went up and down the Tiber in their boats. But the greater part of them were farmers, who tilled the land which lay round about the city. So, by Rome you must always understand the city and the land around it. As fast as the city grew in number of citizens, the land it possessed grew also larger and larger. You see, then, that these citizens who lived together in Rome had to think how they could best keep off their enemies, and save their lands from being plundered. The citizens living together for their common good form what is called a *State*, and the means taken to bring about that common good is called the *government* of the state.

**6. How Rome was governed in early times.**—At first Rome's government was very simple. The state consisted of a number of families, and each family was ruled by its head. For state matters the heads of the families, who were called *patres* or *fathers*, met together in the *Senate* or *meeting of the old men*. The king was the president over the