

of the Senate and excluded all unworthy members. He re-established military discipline, reformed morals by the simplicity of his life, and by a strict economy so improved public finances that he raised sufficient funds to build the Roman Coliseum whose colossal ruins still elicit admiration.

Vespasian until the very end looked after State affairs. At the age of seventy-two, feeling that death was at hand, he asked to be dressed, saying: "It is proper that an emperor should die in state."

Vespasian had just undertaken the siege of Jerusalem in order to quell a revolt in Judea when he was named emperor. His son Titus who was left in charge of the siege, took the City and destroyed it; 1,100,000 Jews were massacred and the survivors dispersed throughout the world.

Titus reigned only twenty-six months, being carried off by fever. His rare kindness and good-will won for him the surname of "The Delight of Mankind." He considered as lost a day in which he had done no act of benevolence.

The eruption of Vesuvius which ruined the cities of Herculaneum, Strabia and Pompeii took place in the reign of this Emperor (79).

Domitian.—(81-96). — 58. At first Domitian followed the example of his brother but, by degrees he became corrupt and disgraced himself by his cruelty and intemperance. Terror and consternation then reigned in Rome.

Church History. — Domitian cruelly persecuted the Christians; it was during his reign that St. John, after having been plunged into a cauldron of boiling oil, was banished to the Isle of Patmos.

Domitian was the last of the emperors commonly called the «Twelve Cæsars».

The Antonines. — The Antonines succeeded the Flavians and their rule marked the Golden Age of the Roman Empire. For almost a century (96-192) the Antonines reigned with honor and