

## Ancient History.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, BY W. R. BIGG, ESQ.,  
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ONT.

(Q.) 92. Name the different battles fought between the Persians and the Greeks in the reign of Xerxes (the Ahasuerus of Scripture.) Particulars and dates.

(A.) Leonidas, with 300 Spartans, withstood the Persians for three days at Thermopylae, till a Greek, named Ephialtes, betrayed to the Persians a path across the mountains, which enabled the Persians to attack the Greeks in the rear. Leonidas and his little band, with other volunteers, who made up the number to about 2,000, were cut to pieces, B. C. 480. The Persians, however, suffered a severe naval defeat at Salamis, by Themistocles, assisted by Aristides, B. C. 480.

Then followed the battles of Plataea and Mycale, B. C. 479. In the former, 300,000 men, commanded by Mardonius, the Persian general, were routed by the Greeks under Pausanias and Aristides, and on the same day the remnant of the Persian fleet that had escaped at Salamis was utterly destroyed at Mycale, by the Greeks under Leotychides, the Spartan King.

(Q.) 93. Name the Seven Wise Men of Greece, and also the Seven Wonders of the World.

(A.) The Seven Wise Men were—Solon, the legislator; Thales, of Miletus; Bias, of Priene; Chilo, of Lacedaemon; Pittacus, of Mytilene; Cleobolus, of Rhodes; and Periander, of Corinth. The number is sometimes increased by the addition of Anacharsis, the Scythian, and Espimenides, the Cretan.

The Seven Wonders of the World were:—The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, in Ionia; the Tomb of Mausolus, at Halicarnassus, in Caria; the Pyramids of Egypt, the Walls and Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Labyrinth of Egypt, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Statue of Jupiter Olympus at Athens, 75 feet high, sculptured by Phidias in ivory and gold. The Pharos, or watch-tower, built by Ptolemy Philadelphus, King of Egypt, is sometimes added to the list.

(Q.) 94. What leader of the Alcmaeonids is said to have instituted the process of Ostracism? Name.

(A.) Cleisthenes. His chief opponents were Isagoras and Cleomenes, the Spartan King.

(Q.) 95. When was Confucius born, and what philosopher was his contemporary?

(A.) About 550 B. C. His contemporary was Pythagoras.

(Q.) 96. What prophet is connected with the close of the Old Testament history? Give the date.

(A.) Malachi, B. C. 430.

(Q.) 97. Of what party amongst the Athenians was Pericles, the representative. Give the date of his administration, describing its effect on the prosperity of Athens, and name who was his rival.

(A.) Pericles, (son of Xanthippus, the conqueror of Mycale), was the representative of the democratic faction, and his rival, Cimón, (son of Miltiades), headed the aristocratic party.

The administration of Pericles dates from B. C. 460 to B. C. 429, during which time he governed with kingly power. Abroad he was everywhere triumphant, particularly in the Samian war, B. C. 440, and Athens became Queen of the Sea. The arts and sciences, with commerce, made rapid advances; schools of philosophers and orators were formed,

and elegance and perspicuity of expression became an enviable distinction. It is to the patronage of Pericles that Athens owes the glory of being the country of literature and the arts.

(Q.) 98. Give the particulars relative to the cause, the events that ensued, and the final results of the Peloponnesian war, and also the names of some celebrated warriors, philosophers, and statesmen, who flourished during that period.

(A.) The rivalry existing between Athens and Sparta, coupled with the hostility between the Ionian and Dorian races, the former favoring democracy and the latter aristocracy, broke out into a contest known as the Peloponnesian war. The immediate occasion of the war was a conflict between Corinth and Corcyra, brought about by a revolt in the Epidamnus, the colony of both. Athens supported Corcyra in the contest, and at the same time was involved in a war against Potidea, a Corinthian colony which she wished to subjugate, and which Sparta determined to protect. The cause of Sparta was embraced by all the Peloponnesians except the Argives, who remained neutral; beyond the Isthmus she was supported by Megara, Phocis, Locris, Boeotia, &c. The allies of the Athenians were Chios, Lesbos, Plataea, Corcyra, Naupactus, Acarnania, Zacynthus, &c. The Spartan King, Archidamus, invaded Attica B. C. 431, while the Athenian fleet ravaged the Peloponnesus, and Pericles devastated Megara. In the second year of the war Potidea surrendered, and the third year was marked by the outbreak of the plague and the death of Pericles. The fourth year was signalised by Lesbos revolting from Athens; but it was subjugated in the following year, its chief city, Mytilene, being forced to surrender. In the same year Plataea capitulated to the Spartans, who, by desire of the Thebans, butchered the surviving men, and made slaves of the women. The town was afterwards razed to the ground. In B. C. 425 the Sphacteria was taken by the Athenian Cleon, but in the following year the Athenians were defeated at Delium by Brasidas, the Spartan general. In B. C. 422 both Brasidas and Cleon were slain at Amphipolis, the victory remaining with the Spartans. After this followed the peace of Nicias, B. C. 421, which gave a temporary rest to the combatants; but the war was again revived by the ambition of Alcibiades, a pupil of Socrates and a nephew of Pericles. In B. C. 418 the Spartans gained the battle of Mantinea against the Argives, which at once restored the military glory of Sparta.

Then followed the fatal Athenian expedition to Sicily, under the command of Alcibiades, Nicias, and Lamachus: but the first having been accused of sacrilege, and fearing to obey the orders of recall, contrived to escape to Sparta, and became the enemy of his country. The fleet and army of the Athenians were defeated at Syracuse by Hermocrates and Gylippus, and ultimately destroyed, B. C. 413. Alcibiades was now recalled by his fickle countrymen, chiefly through the influence of Thrasybulus, and the period of his second government was the most brilliant of the whole war, comprising the naval battles of Cynossema, Abydos, and Cyzicus, in the latter of which the Spartan commander, Mindarus, was slain, the army fled, and the entire fleet became the prize of the Athenians, B. C. 410. In the following year Chalcidion was compelled to surrender to Alcibiades, but he was in turn defeated by Lysander at Ephesus, B. C. 407, and was driven into a second exile. In B. C. 406 the Athenians gained the battle of Ar-