

A. The Fables of Phæ'drus—though the stories were not invented by him—are written in such a simple and pleasing style, that they justify the great praise that has been bestowed upon him by critics.

Q. Who are the principal Roman historians ?

A. Livy, who wrote the history of Rome from the foundation of the city to the age of Cæsar ; Salust, who treated of some isolated events—such as Catiline's conspiracy, the Jugurthine war, &c. ; Cæ'sar, who wrote Commentaries on the history of his own times ; and Ta'citus, who described the history of Rome at a most important period of the empire. To these, perhaps, we should add Justin, who abridged the Universal History of Trogus Pompeius, Flo'rus, Pater'culus, and Eutro'pius, who wrote summaries of Roman history ; Vale'rius Max'imus, who compiled anecdotes of eminent men ; Corne'lius Ne'pos, the author of the Lives of Illustrious Men ; and Sueto'nious, who wrote the biographies of the Roman emperors, usually called the 'Twelve Cæsars.' There were also several others of less importance.

Q. Did Rome produce any eminent orator ?

A. Ci'cero was not only the best of the Roman orators, but, with the single exception of Demos'thenes, the best that the world has ever produced. He was no less eminent as a philosopher, and many of his philosophic writings have never been excelled. Sen'eca is also distinguished by his treatises on moral philosophy, which are as excellent in matter as they are delightful in manner. It is doubtful whether Sen'eca wrote the tragedies commonly ascribed to him.

Q. Had the Romans any scientific writers ?

A. There were several, whose works have been

lost ; the  
natural his

Q. Did

A. The  
that have  
'Treatise  
Gellius, an