

about the year 753 B.C. these Latins founded a colony on the Tiber, to guard the river against the Etruscans, of whom they were afraid. This colony was called Rome, and as it was founded upon the great river of that part of Italy, it soon became of importance for trade, as well as for keeping off the Etruscans.

### 3. Roman stories about Rome's founding.

—Now this is all we can really know about the founding of Rome, but the Romans themselves tell this story about it. A wicked king called Amulius ruled in Alba Longa. He had robbed his elder brother of the kingdom, and put his sons to death, but a daughter of his had twin sons, whose father was the god Mars. Amulius ordered them to be thrown into the river Tiber; but they floated down the stream till they stuck near the place where Rome was afterwards built. They were fed first by a she-wolf, and afterwards were found and brought up by a shepherd. When they had grown up they were made known to their grandfather, whom they restored to his throne after slaying the wicked Amulius. Then the youths, whose names were Romulus and Remus, determined to build a city on the Tiber. They quarrelled whose city it should be, and Remus was killed in the quarrel. So Romulus built the city, and called it Rome after his own name, and was its first king, and made his city great in war. He was taken up to heaven by his father Mars, and was worshipped by the Romans as a god.

After his disappearance the people elected as their king Numa Pompilius, who was a peaceful king, and gave them laws, and taught them religion. Then came a warlike king, Tullus Hostilius, who conquered and took Alba, not by a regular battle, but by a fight between three brothers on each side. The fourth king, Ancus Martius, still further increased Rome's power over the Latins.

Now these are no doubt mere stories, but this is quite certain, that all this time Rome was rising