

pidly increased in strength and numbers. In order to obtain wives for his people, Romulus sought alliance with the Sabines, then the most warlike nation in Italy. His proposals being rejected with disdain, Romulus caused a feast in honor of Neptune to be proclaimed throughout the neighboring villages, and while the Sabines, with their wives and daughters, were intent upon the spectacle of the games, which followed the sacrifices, a number of Roman youths, with drawn swords, rushed in among them, and seizing the youngest and most beautiful among the women, bore them off in triumph. In vain the parents remonstrated against this breach of hospitality. The virgins were detained, and became the wives of the Romans. A bloody war ensued, in which the Romans were victorious, but Romulus, instead of destroying the Sabine towns, placed Roman colonies in them.

11. Tatius, king of Curos, a Sabine city, was the last who sought to revenge the insult offered to his country. He having, by stratagem, obtained possession of the Capitoline hill, an engagement took place, which was renewed with about equal success for several days. On the fourth day, the Sabine women, who had been carried away by the Romans, regardless of their own danger, cast themselves between their husbands and fathers, and implored them to desist. The contending parties, as if by natural impulse, threw down their arms. An accommodation ensued, by which it was agreed that Romulus and Tatius should reign jointly in Rome, that one hundred Sabines should be added to the Senate, and that such of the Sabines as chose should be admitted to live in Rome, and enjoy all the privileges of citizens.

12. About five years after, the death of Tatius left