

THE EARLIER HISTORY OF ITALY.

Italy's glorious history hardly needs to be emphasized. After its foundation in 753 B.C., the capital city of Rome was, according to Livy and the early chroniclers, governed for two hundred and forty-four years by seven successive kings. It was their task to give the city an organization and to conquer their neighbors.

The republic followed and the period of the republic was one of the most splendid times of Roman history for then the state reached its highest power, bringing under its dominion almost all the known world.

The period of the Empire (29 B.C. to 476 A.D.) was also a great era of Roman power. Early in this period Christ came, and while in the beginning Rome persecuted the Christians she afterwards accepted the new religion. The official acceptance, however, when the Emperor Constantino in 313 A.D. publicly recognized the Christian faith was merely a state affair.

The corruption of public and private life which originated in the abundance of money and of commodities, led to the decay of the eternal city and to the servitude of