

distributed. While the community, as a whole, acquired two important rights, (1) that of annually designating its presidents, (2) that of deciding in the last instance concerning the life or death of a citizen (by the *Lex Valeria de Provocatione*), great inequalities—not to say iniquities—still remained. The patricians, who may be called the descendants of the original shareholders in the “*Respublica Romana*,” had enjoyed the assistance of the plebeians in shaking off the yoke of regal despotism. Without that assistance, indeed, they could have accomplished nothing. But their recognition of the services rendered by the plebeians was inadequate and unsatisfactory. The plebeians knew no other “*patria*,” but Rome; they bore arms in the service of the State, and were subject to taxation and other burdens of citizenship. According to Mommsen’s interpretation of the history of the Revolution, they were now admitted into the “*curiæ*,” but at the same time the political prerogatives of the “*comitia curiata*” (the assembly of “*curiæ*,”) were transferred to an assembly which was the military system of “*classes*” and “*centuriæ*” adopted for political purposes, and in this assembly, the “*comitia centuriata*,” the patricians were predominant, inasmuch as the system gave them the advantage in voting power. The “*century*” was the voting-unit, and 98 out of the total of 193 or 194 centuries were assigned to the “*Equites*,” (18) and the “*Prima Classis*” (80), *i.e.*, to the wealthy. The division into patricians and plebeians was not exactly coincident with that into rich and poor, for there were wealthy plebeians. But it appears that wealthy plebeians (even before they were allowed to be eligible for the consulate) were admitted into the Senate, and this—together with the fact of their being wealthy—tended to make them acquiesce, as a rule, in the patrician government. Plebeians then acquired the right of voting in the citizen-assembly, but the conditions under which this right was exercised detracted from its value. They could be officers in the army (military tribunes and centurions,) and they could