

succeeded by his brother Simon, who reduced the Syrian garrison on Mount Sion, destroyed the citadel, and levelled the hill on which it stood, so that it no longer commanded the temple. John Hyrcanus, his son, succeeded, in whose time Judea was annexed to Syria; but on the death of Antiochus Sidetes, B. C. 130, its independence was recovered, and its territories enlarged by the conquest of Samaria and Galilee. On the death of Hyrcanus, his son Aristobulus exchanged the mitre for the crown, and became the first king, B. C. 106.

(Q.) 119. What was the origin of the contest between Marius and Sulla? Give the particulars and final result.

(A.) The contest between Marius and Sulla arose as to which of the two should command the Roman army in the Mithridatic war. The patrician Sulla, once the lieutenant, now the rival of Marius, was appointed by the Senate to the command; but during the absence of Sulla, Marius had the decree cancelled, and the command conferred on himself. Sulla, who was besieging Nola, immediately hastened to Rome, and compelled his rival to flee to Africa. He next marched against Mithridates, and after a short but successful campaign in Bœotia and Thessaly, concluded a favourable peace, B. C. 84, by which the Asiatic monarch lost Greece, Macedonia, Ionia, and other provinces. Cinna, one of the consuls, availed himself of the victorious general's absence to strengthen the Marian party, and to recall Marius, who caused himself to be appointed Consul in conjunction with Cinna. The two then glutted their revenge on the Senators, the principal of whom were slain, and shortly after Marius died. Sulla then returned and wreaked a fearful revenge, far exceeding the provocation, by massacring 8,000 prisoners in the circus, and proscribing 5,000 citizens and 1,600 equites, who were also murdered. In these dreadful commotions 33 consuls, 70 prætors, 60 exiles, 200 senators, and 150,000 Roman citizens lost their lives. Sulla then appointed himself Dictator, and proceeded to reform the State after the ancient constitution. In two years he voluntarily resigned his despotic authority, and retired to Cumæ, where his death soon followed, B. C. 78.

(Q.) 120. Narrate the particulars of Cataline's conspiracy.

(A.) When Cicero, the great orator, was Consul, L. Sergius Cataline, of patrician birth, but ruined fortunes, defeated in his attempts to obtain the Consulship, he formed a conspiracy, of which the murder of the Consul, and the burning of Rome, with the hope of attaining supreme power during the commotions, were the chief portions. The plot was discovered through the instrumentality of a woman (Fulvia), and Cataline was boldly accused in the Senate. His life being in danger, he fled to Etruria, where an army had been collected by his accomplice, Maclius, and being overtaken in the pursuit by the Consul Antonius, a battle ensued at Pistoreia, B. C. 63, in which Cataline fell as bravely as he had lived unworthily, and Cicero, through whose exertions the conspiracy was rendered abortive, was honoured with the title of "Father of his Country."

(Q.) 121. Who formed the First Triumvirate, and when? Sketch the career of Julius Cæsar from the Beginning of the Triumvirate till his death.

(A.) Pompey, Crassus, and Julius Cæsar, in B. C. 60, united their influence and formed that celebrated compact known as the "First Triumvirate." The powers of the Senate were usurped

by them, as well as the command of the legions. Cæsar obtained the Consulship, and then deliberated with his confederates about partitioning the foreign provinces of the Empire. Pompey chose Spain; Crassus, Syria; and Cæsar, Gaul. Crassus, upon entering his province, was shortly after defeated and put to death at Charra, B. C. 53. Cæsar began, in B. C. 58, his successful Gallic Wars: in eight campaigns he entirely overran their country, reduced the Helveti, drove Avovistus back into Germany, and after frequent revolts, Gaul submitted to his arms. The rapid victories of Cæsar roused the jealousy of Pompey, and when the former solicited the consularship, and the prolongation of his government in Gaul, he was ordered to disband his legions, which caused Cæsar, who had come to Ravenna, to cross the Rubicon, a little stream, the boundary of his government, B. C. 49. Corfinium soon fell, and the departure of Pompey for Greece left Cæsar master of Italy. Entering Rome, he seized upon the Treasury, and leaving Antony and Lepidus as his lieutenants, he marched into Spain, which he subdued. Then crossing the sea, he hastened to meet Pompey, who was utterly defeated at Pharsalia, B. C. 48. Cæsar followed up the scattered relics of his opponent, and reducing Egypt, bestowed it on Cleopatra. Pharnaces, son of Mithridates, King of Pontus, taking advantage of this civil war, endeavoured to recover Armenia and Cappadocia; but Cæsar marching against him from Egypt, defeated him at the battle of Zela, in Spain, B. C. 47. It was on this occasion that he penned the remarkable laconic despatch, "Veni; vidi; vici." The remnant of Pompey's army were routed at Shapsacus, B. C. 46, and in consequence of this defeat Cato the Stoic committed suicide. Cæsar was then created Dictator for the year; but a conspiracy, of which the chiefs were Brutus and Cassius, proved successful, and on the Ides of March, B. C. 44, "Even at the base of Pompey's statue, which all the while ran blood, Great Cæsar fell," pierced by the daggers of the assassins.

*This completes the above interesting paper on "Ancient History." In our next an equally interesting one on "Medieval History" will be commenced.*

During the great earthquakes which destroyed Lisbon in 1755 and 1761, Europe, Asia and America were all affected with subterranean agitations, muddy boiling of warm springs, drying up of wells. Ætna, which had not been active for eighty years, broke out; and Mexico was filled with earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The more attentively we consider the face of nature, the more deeply we pry into its mysteries, and make ourselves acquainted with its secrets, the more do we acknowledge the wisdom of the Creator—the more do we feel that "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork."

*Reading.*—Make it a rule to read a little every day. A short paragraph will often afford you a source of profitable reflection for a whole day. For this purpose, always have a book or paper within your reach, so that you may lay your hand on it whenever you have a few moments of leisure.

Gold is the heaviest of all known bodies, platinum excepted; and it is a little more than nineteen times heavier than distilled water. Its ductility is such, that sixteen ounces are supposed sufficient to gild a silver wire equal in length to the whole circumference of the earth.