

see how the power of Rome was gained by conquering all the nations of old times. You will see how the people of Rome first of all overcame all the other people of Italy, and then went on to overcome all the nations that lived round the Mediterranean Sea. Also, besides conquering these nations, they governed them, and gave them their own laws, and made them all like themselves in some degree or another. Now, these nations who lived round the Mediterranean Sea were the only peoples who lived in cities, and made themselves laws, and wrote books, and were what we in these times call *civilised*.

So you see Roman History teaches you something about all the great nations, both of old times and of our own days. Rome was a great link in the history of the world,—for all the nations of old times were conquered by Rome, and so came under Rome's power, while all the European nations of our own days were formed out of the overthrow of Rome, and learned a great deal from her.

### 3. Important points in Roman History.—

These, then, are the important points for you to notice in Roman history :

- (1). How did Rome become fit to be such a great conqueror?
- (2). How did she make her conquests?
- (3). How did she manage to keep her conquests?
- (4). How did she govern the world when she was its mistress?
- (5). Why did she fall?

## CHAPTER I.

### HOW ROME BECAME A CITY.

1. *Italy in early times.*—Rome, as you know, is the capital of Italy: and Italy is the middle one of the three peninsulas which make the south of Europe, and which are washed by the Mediterranean Sea.