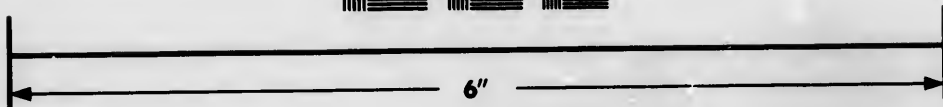
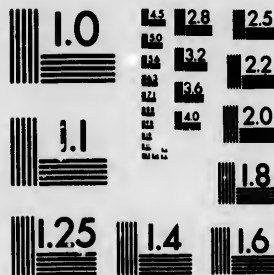
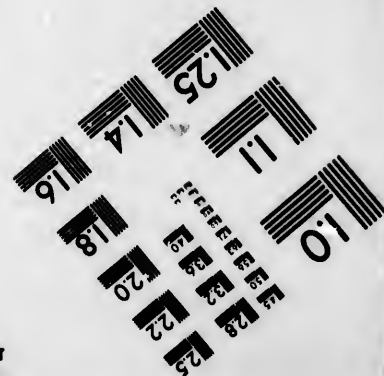
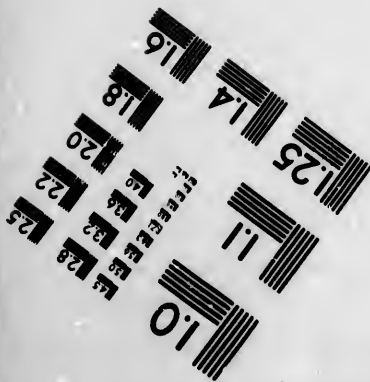


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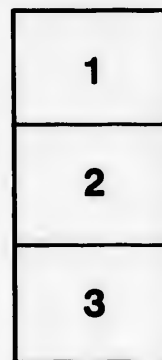
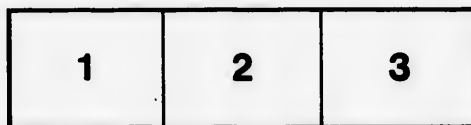
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FROM

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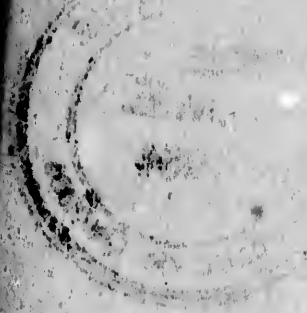
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A
CATECHISM
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ROMAN HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Origin of the Romans.

Question. WHO were the ancient Romans?

Answer. The inhabitants of Ancient Rome, the chief city of Italy; the history of which is full of the most interesting and surprising events.

Q. From what people were the Romans descended?

A. From the ancient Lat'ins, who inhabited the central part of Italy, which was called La'tium; with these a people of Grecian descent, supposed to be the Tyrrhenian Pelasgi, appear to have been united; but the real nature of the circumstances under which the Roman people was formed is unknown, and the common account given by historians is evidently a fable.

Q. Whence do historians usually derive the origin of the Romans?

A. They assert that Æne'as, a Trojan prince, after the destruction of his native city, led a colony into Italy; that he was at first opposed by the native inhabitants, but finally obtained from King Lati'nus the hand of his daughter Lavinia, and the right of succession to the crown.

Q. How long is Æne'as said to have reigned ?

A. Six years ; after which he was slain in battle by Mezentius, the sovereign of a petty principality in Italy. He was afterwards worshipped under the name of Ju'piter Indi'getes.

Q. By whom was Æne'as succeeded ?

A. The historians are not agreed on this subject ; the account generally received is, that Asca'nus or Lu'lus, his eldest son, received the hereditary office of chief priest, and that the crown was placed on the head of Æne'as Syl'vius, the son of Lavi'nia. Asca'nus, however, seems to have held the reins of government during the minority of the young prince.

Q. What city was founded by Asca'nus ?

A. Lon'ga Al'ba : it is said that he was directed to build a city where he should discover a white sow with a litter of thirty young ; having met such a prodigy, he immediately obeyed the precept, and transferred the seat of government from Lavin'ium to Al'ba.

Q. Is there any certain account of the succession of kings in Al'ba ?

A. No ; the Roman historians, indeed, give a list of kings, and assign the duration of their reigns, but the list is manifestly an invention. They do not, however, relate any particular event respecting the history of the Al'bans until after the death of Pro'cus.

Q. You have more than once expressed some doubts of the authenticity of the early history of La'tium ; why do you regard it as uncertain ?

A. The early history of Rome, and of Al'ba, from which Rome is said to have been a colony, is involved in obscurity and fable. The art of writing was very imperfectly known until a late period ; most of the ancient records preserved in Rome were destroyed when the city was burned by the Gauls ; and Fa'buis Pictor, the first Roman Historian, wrote

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his work more than five centuries after the date assigned for the foundation of the city.

CHAPTER II.

Of the Origin of Rom'ulus.

Q. How many sons had Pro'cus the king of the Lat'ins?

A. Two; Nu'mitor, and Amu'lius. To Nu'mitor, the elder, he left the crown; to the other, his treasures.

Q. Did Nu'mitor succeed his father in the government of the Lat'ins?

A. No; Amu'lius, by means of his riches, supplanted his brother, and reigned in his stead.

Q. Had Nu'mitor any children?

A. Yes; he had several sons and one daughter; but how many sons history does not inform us.

Q. What did Amu'lius towards the family of Nu'mitor to deprive them of all hopes of succeeding to the crown?

A. Amu'lius caused his brother's sons to be put to death, and made his only daughter, Rhe'a Sil'via, a vestal virgin.

Q. What is a vestal virgin?

A. A virgin consecrated to the service of Ves'ta, a heathen goddess.

Q. Did Rhe'a Sil'via always remain a virgin?

A. No; she gave birth to two male twins, which she attributed to Mars, the supposed god of war.

Q. How did Amu'lius act when he heard of it?

A. Amu'lius ordered them to be thrown into the river Ti'ber, and herself to be cast into prison.

Q. What became of the children after they were thrown into the Ti'ber?

A. Providentially, the Ti'ber overflowed its banks, so that, when the waters subsided, it left the vessel in which the infants were exposed, on dry ground; they were immediately discovered by Faus'tulus, the king's shepherd, who took them home to his wife Lauren'tia to nurse; and they were brought up by them as their own children.

Q. By what names were these twins known?

A. By Rom'ulus and Re'mus, who, when they were grown up, confined themselves to the shepherds' life for some time; but as soon as they discovered that they were sprung from a nobler origin, they discontinued the shepherds' habits, and took to hunting; they also attacked the robbers of their country, whom they stripped of their plunder, and divided it among the common people.

Q. What befel Re'mus in one of these hunting parties?

A. He was taken and brought before Amu'lius, and charged with having carried off plunder from the lands of Nu'mitor, to whom he was given over to be punished; but the critical situation in which Re'mus was placed caused Faus'tulus to make a discovery to Nu'mitor of the secret of their birth.

Q. What followed this discovery?

A. A conspiracy against Amu'lius, who was slain, and Nu'mitor was restored to the throne; he reigned two years, and with him fell the Lat'in power, which was followed by that of the Romans, whose first king was Rom'ulus.

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CHAPTER III.

Of the Foundation of Rome by Rom'ulus.

Q. WHEN, and by whom; was the city of Rome built?

A. It was built 753 years before the birth of our Saviour, 431. after the burning of Troy, and in the year of the world 3251, by Rom'ulus and Re'mus, on the very spot where they had been exposed, when Amu'lius intended to have drowned them to prevent their succeeding to the crown.

Q. As, from the circumstances of these young men being twins, neither of them could claim any right of precedence, What expedient did they take to determine which should govern this new city?

A. For this purpose they had recourse to augury*, and agreed, that he who saw the most vultures, at a certain time, should name the new city, and be king; Rom'ulus saw twelve, and Re'mus only six: whence it was governed by the former, and from him it received the name of *Rome*.

Q. Was it settled amicably between Rom'ulus and Re'mus who should govern the new kingdom?

A. No; a dispute arose, and in the tumult Re'mus was slain; and Rom'ulus remained king alone.

* *Augury* among the ancients, was much used. It was a species of divination, or the art of foretelling future events, and distinguished into five kinds, namely, augury from the heavens, from birds, (as in the above instance), from chickens, from quadrupeds, and from portentous events. Of this kind are also the modern magic, astrology, palmistry, &c., which, though formerly much practised, are now justly exploded, as inconsistent with reason, propriety, and true philosophy.

CHAPTER IV.

The manner in which Rome was first peopled.

Q. WHAT method did Rom'ulus take to people Rome?

A. He thought of two expedients.

Q. What were they?

A. In the first place he opened a public sanctuary in a small wood, not far from the city, where all fugitive slaves, criminals, and others of a similar description, from the neighbouring Provinces, found protection.

Q. Had this expedient the desired effect?

A. Yes.

Q. What did he after this?

A. As there were no women among the Romans, and as their neighbours would not intermarry with them, he was obliged to have recourse to a stratagem.

Q. What was that?

A. He had it published in all the neighbouring provinces, that at a certain time the Romans designed to celebrate some sports in honour of Neptune.

Q. What success attended him in this measure?

A. The *Sabines* came to see these diversions, and brought their wives and daughters with them; and when they were most intent upon beholding the sports, Rom'ulus gave the signal, and the Roman youths immediately carried off the Sabine virgins, and married them, and their parents fled home in the greatest trepidation.

Q. What did Rom'ulus, when he had thus peopled his city?

A. He divided the people into three tribes, and each tribe into ten *curiæ*, or parishes; the chief of a tribe was called *Tribunus*, a tribune, and of a *curiæ*, *Curio*.

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Q. How did he divide the land?

A. Into thirty equal parts, to answer the number of curiæ, which parts were distributed by lot.

Q. Did not Romu'lus reserve any portion for the public expences?

A. Yes; a certain portion was exempted, sufficient to defray sacred rites, the building of temples, and all public exigences.

Q. How did he divide the people in point of rank?

A. Into two orders; the one called *patricians*, or nobility, and the other *plebeians*, or common people.

Q. What were the functions of the patricians, and what those of the plebeians?

A. It was the office of the patricians to perform sacred things, and to assist the government in the affairs of state; and that of the plebeians to cultivate the ground, and exercise mechanic arts or handicrafts.

CHAPTER V.

Of the Government of Rome.

Q. How was Rome first governed?

A. By kings.

Q. What is this sort of government called?

A. Monarchy.

Q. Was Rome always governed by kings?

A. No; it became a republic after the expulsion of Tar'quin the Proud, who was the seventh and last king.

Q. What is the difference between a monarchy and a republic?

A. A monarchy is a form of government where the chief power is vested in one person only; in a republic the administration is lodged in the hands of many.

Q. Did Rome always continue a republic after the expulsion of Tar'quin the Proud ?

A. No ; it was afterwards governed by emperors.

Q. What difference is there between a king and an emperor ?

A. The names are synonymous, with this distinction only, that an emperor is supposed to have greater power or authority.

Q. How many kinds of government have there been in Rome ?

A. Three : that of kings, which lasted about 250 years ; that of consuls, 490 ; and that of the emperors, 360.

Q. How many kings reigned over the Romans ?

A. Seven ; their names are in the following table, together with the time and length of their respective reigns.

CHAPTER VI.

A TABLE OF THE SEVEN KINGS OF ROME.

KINGS.	Years of the World.	Reign.
1. Romu'lus	3251	38
Inter-regnum*	3289	—
2. Nu'ma Pompil'ius	3290	42
3. Tul'lus Hostil'ius	3332	32
4. An'cus Mar'tius	3364	24
5. Tarquin'ius Pris'cus	3388	38
6. Servi'us Tul'lus	3426	44
7. Tarquin'ius Super'bus	3470	25

* *Inter-regnum*, the time in which a throne is vacant, between the death of one prince and the accession of another; but in hereditary governments, like that of Great Britain, there is no inter-regnum.

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CHAPTER VII.

Of the reign of Rom'ulus.

Q. WHAT was the character of Rom'ulus?

A. He was a great warrior and politician, and gained several considerable battles against the Centinians, the Atanmates, and the Crustumians (people of Italy), with whom he made war.

Q. Did no other people attack the Romans besides those above mentioned?

A. Yes; the Sabines under Tarquinius were engaged with the Romans for the recovery of their daughters.

Q. Was not this a dangerous war for Rom'ulus?

A. Yes; it had nearly been the downfall of the Roman power, for the Sabines had got possession of the capital by the treachery of Tarpeia, who had the keeping of one of the gates; and had it not been for the intercession of the Roman wives, who had been carried off by force, who threw themselves between the two contending armies, and obtained a peace with their tears, their destruction was at hand.

Q. It appears from what you have related, that the Sabines were moved with compassion at this sight?

A. Yes; so much so, that the combatants on both sides immediately threw down their arms, and engaged themselves never again to make war against each other.

Q. What followed this conciliation?

A. The two powers entered into an agreement, that Rom'ulus and Ta'tius* should reign together, and that Rome should be the capital of their empire.

* The king of the Sabines.

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Years of the World.	Reign.
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3289	—
3290	42
3332	32
3364	24
3388	38
3426	44
3470	25

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Q. How many years did Rom'ulus and Ta'tius reign jointly and amicably together ?

A. Six years ; when Ta'tius was murdered at Lanu'vium, B. C. 742, for an act of cruelty to the ambassadors of the Lauren'tes*. Some authors suppose this was done by order of his royal colleague, from a secret jealousy between the two sovereigns.

Q. In what manner did Rom'ulus come by his death ?

A. It is not known ; but the most probable opinion is, that the senators, whom he treated too imperiously, killed him in the midst of the Senate, and afterwards made the people believe that he ascended into heaven.

Q. After the death of Rom'ulus, was not the form of government changed ?

A. Yes ; for the senate being composed of Romans and Sab'ines, it was resolved to choose by lot five persons of each nation, who should reign five days alternately, till such time as they could find out one that was worthy to fill the throne.

Q. How long did this inter-regnum last ?

A. A twelvemonth.

Q. Was nothing done to the honour of Romu'lus ?

A. Yes ; a temple was built to him upon the Quiri'nal Mount †, where he was adored under the name of Quiri'nus ‡.

Q. How long did Rom'ulus reign, and by whom was he succeeded ?

A. He reigned thirty-eight years, and was succeeded by Nu'ma Pompil'ius.

* The Lat'ins, sometimes called Laurentini.

† A hill in Rome, originally called Ago'nus.

‡ A surname of the god Mars, among the Romans, which was given to Rom'ulus when he was deified by his superstitious subjects.

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CHAPTER VIII.

Of the Reign of Nu'ma Pompil'ius, the second King of Rome.

Q. WHENCE came Nu'ma Pompil'ius ?

A. From Cure's, the metropolis of the Sab'ines ; he was chosen by the senate on account of his great piety.

Q. What was the first public act Pompil'ius did after he was made sovereign ?

A. The first thing he did was to disband the guards which Rom'ulus had instituted for the security of his person.

Q. Why did he do this ?

A. Because, he said, it was better for a prince to make himself beloved than feared by his subjects.

Q. What were the principal events of his reign ?

A. He instituted the college of vestals, softened the stern disposition of the people, maintained peace with his neighbours, built the temple of Ja'nus*, and died after reigning tranquilly and happily for forty-two years.

Q. Were there no other remarkable events in the reign of Pompil'ius ?

A. Yes ; he divided the year into twelve months, whereas Rom'ulus made it consist only of ten. He also instituted the *pontiffs*, who had the chief direction of secret matters ; the *augurs*, who explained omens, &c. ; and the *Salian priests*, who took care of the sacred shield, which Nu'ma pretended had dropped down from heaven ; and which, while they remained in Rome, would serve as a perpetual safeguard to the city.

* A temple built in honour of the god Ja'nus, which was shut in peace, and opened in war.

Q. Had he any children ?

A. Yes ; he had four sons, none of whom succeeded him in the crown, but founded four illustrious families in Rome.

Q. Had he no daughter ?

A. One only, called Pompil'ia, married to a Sabine nobleman, whose name was Mar'tius.

Q. By whom was Nu'ma Pompil'ius succeeded ?

A. By Tul'lus Hostil'ius.

CHAPTER IX.

Tul'lus Hostil'ius, the third King of Rome.

Q. WHAT important act did Tul'lus Hostil'ius in the beginning of his reign ?

A. Being of a warlike disposition, he taught the Romans a regular system of military discipline, with which they were before unacquainted.

Q. What remarkable event happened in the reign of Tul'lus ?

A. The war with the Albans, which was decided in the famous combat between the Hora'tii and Curia'tii.

Q. Can you relate to me the manner in which the war between the Romans and Albans was conducted ?

A. The Romans and Albans being willing to put a speedy conclusion to the war, which had lasted a long time, it was resolved, on both sides, to choose three champions to fight for their country, and to decide in that way the fate of the contending nations.

Q. What were the conditions ?

A. If the three Albans were vanquished, Alba was to submit itself to the government of the Romans ; on the other hand, if the Roman champions

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were beaten, Rome was to have been subject to Alba.

Q. Who were selected for this great exploit ?

A. The Romans chose the three Hora'tii, brothers ; and the Albans, the three Curia'tii, who were brothers also.

Q. What was the result of this combat, and where did they fight ?

A. They fought in the presence of both armies. Two of the Romans fell ; the three Albans were wounded ; and the surviving Roman was unhurt. He, therefore, to separate the Curia'tii, betook himself to flight ; and as they pursued him at a considerable distance from each other, and one of them not far off, he suddenly turned about and killed him ; and, in like manner, as they came up with him singly, he killed the other two. Thus the Albans, therefore, acknowledged their defeat, and became subject to the Romans.

Q. Did not Hora'tius soon tarnish the glory of this illustrious action ?

A. Yes.

Q. In what manner ?

A. By murdering his own sister.

Q. What instigated him to murder his own sister ?

A. Returning victorious, and meeting his sister in tears for one of the Curia'tii, who had been promised her in marriage, he ran her through with his sword ?

Q. Was he not punished for this atrocious deed ?

A. He was tried and condemned by two judges, appointed by the king ; but, at the intercession of his father, he was reprieved on account of his late victory.

Q. The Romans being thus conquerors, what did Tul'lus after this ?

A. He ordered the city of Alba to be razed to the

ground, and commanded the Albans to come and live at Rome, with their ruler Me'tius Suffe'tius.

Q. What became of Me'tius ?

A. He was some time after tied to the tails of four horses, and torn to pieces, for forming a conspiracy to make himself master of Rome.

Q. In what manner did Tul'lus die ?

A. He and his whole family were burnt to death by lightning, which at the same time consumed his palace.

Q. How long did he reign, and by whom was he succeeded ?

A. He reigned thirty-two years, and was succeeded by An'cus Mar'tius, who resembled Nu'ma Pompil'ius both in justice and piety.

CHAPTER X.

Of An'cus Mar'tius, the fourth King of Rome.

Q. FROM whom was An'cus descended ?

A. He was the son of Pompil'ius, and grandson of Nu'ma Pompil'ius, whose piety and virtue he is said to have inherited.

Q. What were the principal events of his reign ?

A. He increased the number of Roman citizens, by conquering his enemies, and afterwards making them free; built the wall of Os'tia, at the mouth of the Tiber; enclosed Rome with strong walls; and, after a reign of twenty-four years, left two sons to the government, under the tutelage of Tarquin'ius Pris'cus, who, abusing the credit he had with the people, took possession of the throne.

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CHAPTER XI.

Tarquin'ius Pris'cus, the Fifth King of Rome.

Q. WHAT was the origin of Tarquin'ius Pris'cus ?

A. He was originally of Cor'inth, in Greece, and the son of a rich merchant, whose name was Dama-ra'tus.

Q. For what reason did he assume the name of Tarquin'ius ?*

A. In remembrance of the city of the Tar'quins, where he was born.

Q. What are the principal events of his reign ?

A. He extended the dominion of the Romans, subjugated Tuscany, and adorned the city with monuments of public utility, some of which still remain. He also augmented the number of senators and knights, in order to strengthen his interest with the people.

Q. What other remarkable events occurred in this reign ?

A. He was the first who wore a crown, and a sceptre, with the other marks of royal dignity, and it was through him, also, that the custom of celebrating a triumph, by being drawn in a chariot, took its origin.

Q. From what people are the Romans said to have borrowed those ensigns of dignity ?

A. From the Etrurians or Tuscans, an ancient Italian people, early distinguished for their attention to religious ceremonies, and for their successful cultivation of the arts of civilized life.

Q. Was there no other event worthy of observation besides those above mentioned ?

* The name of Pris'cus was afterwards added, to distinguish him from Tar'quin the Proud.

A. Yes; Tar'quin one day having a mind to try the skill of Ac'tius Næ'vius, the president of the *augurs*, asked him, whether what he was then thinking of was possible to be done or not.

Q. What answer did Næ'vius make?

A. After he had consulted with the birds, he told him that it was possible. Why then, says the king, I was thinking whether I could be able to cut this whetstone with a razor: Strike hard, and you are able, replied the augur; and the king is represented to have cut it through. This circumstance gave great reputation to the augurs; and the Romans, ever after, would undertake no enterprise without consulting them.

Q. What did Tar'quin besides to recommend himself?

A. He extinguished the name of the La'tins through all Italy, having possessed himself of most of their cities.

Q. What misfortune befell him?

A. He was slain by two peasants, who were bribed to do it by the children of An'cus Mar'tius.

Q. Why did they get him assassinated?

A. In revenge for taking possession of the throne, to their prejudice.

Q. How old was he when they slew him; and how long did he reign?

A. He was eighty-four years old, and reigned thirty-eight years.

Q. Had he any children?

A. Yes; two, whom he placed under the care of Ser'vius Tul'lius, who had married his daughter.

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CHAPTER XII.

Ser'vius Tul'lius, the sixth King of Rome.

Q. WHAT was the origin of Tul'lius?

A. He was son to the prince of Cornic'ula, a small city which Tar'quin had taken in the province of the Lat'ins.

Q. What are the principal events of his reign?

A. He vanquished the Tus'cans and Veien'tes, and was the first who took a census of the Roman citizens. He likewise, for the better accommodation and support of his troops, valued every man's estate, in order to tax him in proportion to his income.

Q. After this, how often did an enumeration of the citizens take place.

A. Once in every five years, which was called a *lustrum*.

Q. Had Ser'vius any children.

A. Yes; two daughters, the eldest of a sweet and agreeable temper; and the youngest violent and ambitious.

Q. Whom did they marry, and what was the consequence?

A. They married the two Tar'quins; the eldest of whom, ere long, murdered his wife, and the younger daughter murdered her husband, in order to be united to the elder Tar'quin.

Q. What followed these most atrocious deeds.

A. As soon as Tul'lia and Tar'quin became united, they dethroned their father; and Tul'lia had the wickedness to order her car to be driven over her father's dead body.

Q. How long did Ser'vius Tul'lius reign, and by whom was he succeeded?

A. He reigned forty-four years, and was succeeded by Tar'quin, surnamed the **PROUD**.

CHAPTER XIII.

Of Tarquin'ius Super'bus, the seventh and last King of Rome.

Q. Or what origin was Tarquin'ius Super'bus ?

A. His exact origin is uncertain ; some historians tell us that he was the son of Tarquin'ius Pris'cus, but others are of opinion that he was his grandson.

Q. How did Tarquin the Proud conduct himself towards the people ?

A. He gave himself up to acts of violence, and governed Rome as a tyrant rather than as a king ?

Q. What were the principal events of his reign ?

A. He completed the building of the Roman capitol, an immense work, worthy the future greatness of the Romans ; but his son Sextus having violated the chaste Lucre'tia, the wife of Collati'nus, a noble Roman, it so irritated the public mind against him, that it became the signal for liberty, and the downfall of the family of the Tar'quins*.

Q. Why was Tarquin'ius surnamed Super'bus ?

A. From his pride and insolent disposition.

Q. What befell the family of the Tar'quins, and how long did Tarquin'ius reign ?

* Sex'tus having beheld Lucre'tia, who was no less distinguished for beauty than chastity, immediately formed the design of dishonouring her, and imagining that his high birth would screen him from punishment, he resolved on effecting his purpose by the vilest means. The prayers and tears of Lucre'tia were of no avail, for being bent on the gratification of an impure passion, he put a dagger to her breast and threatened to kill her, and make her name infamous, if she did not comply with his unlawful desires ; Lucre'tia, unable to bear the loss of her honour, killed herself.

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A. The family were driven into exile. Tarquin'us reigned twenty-five years, and died in Tuscany, after having made several efforts in vain to repossess himself of Rome.

Q. With whom fell the regal power of Rome?

A. With Tarquin'us Super'bus, after a continuance of two hundred and forty-five years, during which time, though it had not extended its dominion above forty miles on any side, yet it had acquired a firmness and stability that qualified it for the mighty projects it afterwards undertook, and which it finally accomplished.

Q. What celebrated character was it who so nobly espoused the cause of the much injured and chaste Lucre'tia.

A. Ju'nius Bru'tus, the son of Mar'cus Ju'nius, one of the Roman nobles, and of Tarquin'ia, daughter of Tarquin'us Pris'cus, who in concert with Collati'nus, effected a complete revolution in Rome*.

* The first act of Bru'tus was the issuing a decree for the King's banishment, in which it was made a capital offence for any one even to express a wish for his return, or any of the family. He then assembled the comitia, and exhibited the dead body of Lucre'tia to the people, haranguing them on the enormities and tyranny of Tar'quin, till the multitude, fired with revenge, and transported with the hopes of liberty, expressed their satisfaction with the change that Bru'tus had effected by the loudest acclamations.

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CHAPTER XIV.

History of the Commonwealth, or the Roman Republic.

JUNIUS BRUTUS AND COLLATINUS.

Q. AFTER the expulsion of Tarquin by Brutus and Collati'nus, by whom was Rome governed ?

A. By consuls.

Q. When did their government begin ?

A. Two hundred and forty-five years after the foundation of Rome, and five hundred and ten before the birth of Christ.

Q. Who were the consuls ?

A. Certain magistrates, in whose hands the sovereign authority was lodged for a year only ; who were thus limited, in order that they might not grow insolent from having the command of the state for a longer period.

Q. Who were the first two consuls ?

A. Bru'tus and Collati'nus.

Q. Why was the office of consul taken away from Tar'quin Collati'nus ?

A. Because he used the name of Tar'quin, which was odious to the people.

Q. Whom did they put in his place ?

A. Vale'rius Public'ola.

Q. What was there remarkable in the conduct of Bru'tus ?

A. He had a long time, during the reign of Tar'quin feigned madness, to avoid the cruelty of that tyrant, who had put to death Ju'nius, his father, and his brother, with several other senators.

Q. What else did he worthy of remark ?

A. The love he bore his country was so great, that he sacrificed the rights of nature to the public

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weal, for he caused two of his sons to be beheaded for conspiring against the republic.

Q. By whom was the conspiracy carried on?

A. By the deputies whom Tarquin had sent to Rome to negotiate the affair of his restoration.

Q. In what manner did Brutus come by his death?

A. He lost his life in fighting with Aruns*, son of Tarquin, in a battle against those of Tarquin's party, and the Veien'tes, who espoused his cause.

CHAPTER XV.

Of the Wars which the Romans maintained.

Q. WHAT were the wars which the Romans maintained?

A. The following, viz.

- †1. The *Etru'rian* war.
2. The war of the *Lat'ins*.
3. The war of the *Vol'scians*.
4. The war of the *Veien'tes*.
5. The war of the *Gauls*.
6. The second war of the *Lat'ins*.
7. The war of the *Sam'nites*.
8. The war of the *Taren'tines*.

* Aruns fell also at the same time.

† 1. The *Etru'rians* were inhabitants of *Etru'ria*, a celebrated country of Italy, at the west of the Tiber.

2. *Lati'num*, south of Rome.

3. *Vol'scians*, a considerable people of Tuscany.

4. *Veien'tes*, inhabitant of *Ve'ii*, an ancient city of Tuscany.

5. *Gauls*, the ancient inhabitants of France.

7. *Sam'nites*, of *Sam'nium*, now Naples.

8. *Taren'tines*, the inhabitants of *Taren'tum*.

- *9. The first *Pu'nic* war.
10. The second *Pu'nic* war.
11. The war of *Anti'ochus*.
12. The war of *Macedo'nia*.
13. The third *Pu'nic* war.
14. The war of *Cor'inth*.
15. The war of *Por'tugal*.
16. The war of *Numan'tia*.
17. The war of the *Slaves*.
18. The war of *Jugur'tha*.
19. The war of *Mithrida'tes*.

Questions for Examination, corresponding to the Notes in the former page.

1. Who were the *Etru'rians* ?
2. Who were the *Lat'ins* ?
3. Who were the *Vol'scians* ?
4. Who were the *Veien'tes* ?
5. Who were the *Gauls* ?

* 9. *Pu'nic War*, a war between the *Carthagin'ians*, inhabitants of *Carthage*, in *Africa*, and the *Romans*. It was called the *Pu'nic War*, because the *Carthagin'ians* were called *Pœni*, or, corruptly, *Pu'ni*, from their ancestors the *Phœnicians*.

11. *Anti'ochus*, surnamed the Great. was king of *Syria*, a province of *Tur'key*.

12. *Macedonia*, a kingdom of ancient *Greece*, now part of *European Tur'key*.

14. *Cor'inth*, a city of ancient *Greece*, now part of *European Turkey*.

15. *Portugal*, the present *Portugal*.

16. *Numan'tia*, a city of old *Cas'tile*, in *Spain*.

17. *Slaves* to the *Romans* in *Si'cily*.

18. *Jugur'tha*, king of *Num'idia*, a large district in *Africa*, comprising *Algiers* and *Biledul'gerid*.

19. *Mithrida'tes*, king of *Pontus*. an ancient country in the north of *Turkey*.

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7. Who were the Sam'nites ?
8. Who were the Taren'tines ?
9. What were the Pu'nic Wars ?
11. Who was Anti'ochus ?
12. Where was Macedo'nia ?
14. What was Cor'inth ?
16. Where was Numan'tia ?
18. Who was Jugur'tha ?
19. Who was Mithrida'tes ?

Q. Had the Romans any other wars than those ?

A. Yes ; they had two civil wars : one between Ma'rius and Syl'la, and the other between Cæsar and Pompey ; also several seditions, which shall be related in their proper place.

Q. For what reason did the Romans undertake all these wars ?

A. To defend their liberty, to preserve their limits, protect their allies, and enlarge their empire.

CHAPTER XVI.

The War of Etru'ria.

OF THE WORLD, 3547 ;—OF ROME, 247.

Q. WHICH was the first war that the Romans were engaged in after the expulsion of their kings ?

A. That of Etru'ria.

Q. How did it begin, and in what manner did it end ?

A. Porsen'na, king of Etru'ria, being resolved to support the cause of Tar'quin, came and besieged Rome with a powerful army ; but the great valour and bravery of Hora'tius Co'cles, and Mu'tius*

* Mu'tius is said to have entered the Tuscan camp in disguise, with the intention of assassinating Porsen'na ; by mistake he slew the royal secretary, and was immediately seized. When brought before the king, he boldly avowed

Scævo'la, so effectually daunted him, that he sent deputies to the Romans to offer them peace. As soon as Porsen'na found that he could not conquer the Romans, he abandoned the cause of Tar'quin.

CHAPTER XVII.

The War with the Lat'ins.

OF THE WORLD, 3555 ;—OF ROME, 254.

Q. WHICH was the second war that the Romans were obliged to maintain ?

A. That of the Lat'ins, who took up arms at the instigation of Manlius, son-in-law to Tar'quin.

Q. What was the result of this war ?

A. A bloody battle ensued, in which the Romans were victorious.

Q. Who were the generals of the two armies ?

A. Man'lius was at the head of the Lat'ins, and Au'lus Posthu'mius commanded the Romans.

Q. How many men fell in this battle ?

A. Thirty-four thousand of the Lat'ins, among whom was Man'lius ; and six thousand of the Romans. After the death of Man'lius, the Tarquins lost all hopes of ever being restored.

his design, and declared that three hundred Roman youths had combined for the same purpose. To show his contempt of torture, he thrust his hand into the fire which burned on an altar, and held it there until it was consumed. Admiring his bravery, Porsen'na dismissed him safe, and, dreading a succession of similar efforts, granted favourable terms of peace. Such is the account given by historians, but there is good reason to believe that Porsen'na captured the city, and for some time retained it in subjection.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

The War with the Vol'scians.

Q. WITH whom was the third war of the Romans?

A. With the Vol'scians.

Q. Why did the Romans declare war against the Vol'sci?

A. Because the Vol'scians continually disturbed and annoyed them.

Q. When did this war begin, and in whose favour did it terminate?

A. It began in the year of Rome 259, lasted several years, and terminated in favour of the Romans.

Q. By whom was the Roman army commanded?

A. By Quin'tus Cincinna'tus, who was taken from the plough to be made dictator. He originally possessed a very great fortune, but disposed of the whole in paying a heavy fine which had been imposed on his son Cæ'so. He had performed many exploits in his youthful days, which was the reason of his being applied to on this urgent occasion.

Q. What became of Cincinna'tus after this defeat of the Vol'sci?

A. He returned to his old employment of tilling the ground, and looking after his farm.

Q. Was there any other war between the Romans and the Vol'sci after this?

A. Yes, several; but the most celebrated was the one caused by Cori'olanus, a Roman gentleman, whose name was Mar'tius. He was condemned to banishment in the year of Rome 262, and fled to the Vol'sci for protection, who chose him for their general.

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A. He signalized himself in several encounters, in which he always defeated the Romans.

Q. Did he always make use of his advantage over the Romans ?

A. No ; being encamped near the gates of the city with a design to besiege it, he was diverted from his purpose by the prayers and tears of his mother Vetru'ria, and his wife Volum'nia, whom the senate deputed to go and intercede with him. He therefore abandoned his enterprise, and drew the army off, in the year 266, and led the Vol'sci back to their own country, where he was assassinated ; thus expiating the crime of his revolt by his death.

Q. Had the Vol'sci any other wars besides those already mentioned ?

A. Yes ; but after the death of Cori'olanus, every other proved abortive, and they were totally defeated in a famous battle, by Spu'rius Cas'sius, the commander of the Romans.

Q. What was the end of Cas'sius ?

A. Three years after, he was thrown headlong from the Tarpe'ian rock, being accused of a design to get himself declared king, 268 of Rome.

Q. When began the War of the Veien'tes ?

A. In the year of Rome 271.

Q. Which of the powers proved successful ?

A. The Romans ; who, under the command of Camil'lus, the dictator, took the city of the Veien'tes, after a siege of ten years' continuance, in the year of Rome 358.

Q. Did Camil'lus signalize his valour upon any other occasion ?

A. Yes ; he brought the Fiden'ates into subjection, and also the city of Falis'ci.

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CHAPTER XIX.

Of the War with the Gauls.

Q. WHEN did the war between the Gauls and the Romans begin?

A. In the year of Rome 363.

Q. Who were the aggressors?

A. The Gauls, who entered Italy, on the north, with an army of about one hundred thousand men, with an expectation of finding a great booty; they first laid seige to Clu'sium, after which they directed their march towards Rome.

Q. What was the conduct of the Romans when they heard of the approach of the Gauls?

A. They sent Fa'bius the consul with a powerful army to oppose them.

Q. What was the result of the meeting of these two powerful armies?

A. A most bloody battle was fought near the river Allia, where the Roman army met with a total defeat.

Q. What did the Gauls after this important victory?

A. They immediately entered the Roman capital, plundered it, massacred all the senators, and afterwards burnt the whole city to the ground.

Q. What other measures were pursued by the Gauls?

A. After having thus ravaged and desolated the city, Bren'nus who commanded the Gauls, besieged the capital, whither the Roman Youth had retired with Man'lius.

Q. How long did the siege continue, and what was the result?

A. It continued six months, when Camil'us, who had been banished some time before, was recalled

with all speed to come to its relief: he arrived there at the head of two thousand men, whom he had collected in his march, beat the Gauls out of Rome, pursued them several leagues, and completely overthrew them.

Q. In what way did Camil'us then proceed?

A. He returned to Rome in triumph, caused the people to remove the ruins, and a new city to be built.

Q. In what manner was this war concluded?

A. Soon after the Gauls were driven out of Italy by Man'lius and Dolabell'a.

Q. WHEN did the Romans declare war against the Lat'ins?

A. In the year of Rome 414.

Q. What were their reasons for so doing?

A. Because the Lat'ins pretended to have a right to the privileges of the Roman citizens, a share in the Government, and also of filling all offices.

Q. How did this war terminate?

A. In the total discomfiture of the Lat'ins.

CHAPTER XX.

Of the War against the Sam'nites.

Q. WHEN did the War against the Sam'nites begin?

A. In the year of Rome 411.

Q. Why did the Romans declare war against the Sam'nites?

A. It was at the request of the Campa'nians a people of Italy, who had put themselves under the protection of the Romans.

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Q. How long did this war continue, and in what manner did it terminate?

A. It continued fifty years, when the Sam'nites met with a total defeat.

Q. Before this favourable termination, did not the Romans suffer a severe defeat?

A. Yes; by the able conduct of the Sam'nite general Pon'tius, the Roman army was entangled in a defile called the Caudine Forks, and forced to surrender at discretion.

Q. What advice did Pon'tius receive from his father respecting the disposal of his prisoners?

A. When first asked his opinion, the old Sam'nite recommended that they should all be dismissed without ransom, a measure which would have united the Romans to the Sam'nites by the strongest ties of gratitude. When this counsel was rejected, he recommended that they should be all put to death, in order to weaken the power of Rome.

Q. Which course was adopted?

A. Neither; the Romans were disarmed and degraded by being forced to pass under the yoke: they were thus made bitter and irreconcilable enemies, while their real strength was unimpaired.

CHAPTER XXI.

The War against the Taren'tines.

OF THE WORD 3772;—OF ROME 472.

Q. WHY did the Romans make war upon the Taren'tines?

A. Because they pillaged their fleet, and ill-treated the ambassadors who were sent to complain of the injury.

Q. By whom were the Taren'tines assisted ?

A. By Pyr'rus, king of Ep'i'rus, who thought by his successes in the western world to rival the fame which Alexander the Great had obtained in the East.

Q. Did Pyr'rus obtain any victories ?

A. He twice defeated the Romans, but on each occasion his own army suffered so severely, that he exclaimed 'One such victory more, and I am undone.' He was in his turn completely conquered by Cu'rius Denta'tus, after which he returned home, leaving the Taren'tines to their fate.

Q. What was the issue of this war ?

A. The Tarentines were conquered, and being obliged to submit to the Romans, soon after formed an alliance with them.

Q. What is the next event worthy of remark ?

A. The Romans then subdued the Salen'tines ; after which followed the Pu'nic War ; which proved to be the longest and most dangerous they had yet experienced.

CHAPTER XXII.

Of the First Pu'nic War.

Q. WHEN did the first Pu'nic war begin, and what was the cause of it ?

A. It began in the year of Rome 490 ; and was caused by the jealousy of the Romans at the rising power of Car'thage.

Q. Who were the authors of this war ?

A. The people of Messi'na, in Sicily, on one side, and Hi'ero, king of Syr'acuse, an ally of Car'thage, on the other.

Q. What was the success of this war ?

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vantage; but, in the sequel, Ap'pius Clau'dius, the Roman general, defeated Hie'ro, who was obliged to sue for peace, which was granted him upon easy terms.

Q. What very memorable event happened about the fifth year of the war?

A. Duil'lius, the Roman consul, equipped a fleet of one hundred and sixty sail, in quest of the fleet of Car'thage, which he came up with, gained a complete victory, and the whole were either sunk or taken.

Q. How long did this war continue, and in what manner was it ended?

A. It lasted twenty three years, when Ca'ius Luta'tius had a second engagement with the Carthagin'ian fleet, gained a complete victory, and thus put an end to the war.

Q. Who commanded the Carthagin'ian fleet?

A. Han'no was their admiral.

Q. What were the conditions of the treaty of peace?

A. That the Carthagin'ians should surrender Si'cily, Sardin'ia, and all the isles they possessed between Africa and Italy, to the Romans; and that, for twenty years, they should pay them an annual tribute of twelve hundred talents.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Of the Second Pu'nic War.

Q. WHEN did the second war begin, and what occasioned it?

A. It began twenty-four years after the conclusion of the first, and was occasioned by the ambition of Han'nibal, who took the city of Sagun'tum, in Spain and levelled it with the ground.

Q. How did the Romans act when they heard of the injuries done to their allies the Sagun'tines ?

A. They immediately sent ambassadors to Carthage, to demand an explanation of this insult, and of the infraction of the treaty; when they received an answer breathing only defiance.

Q. What did Han'nibal after his reduction of Saguntum ?

A. He collected a numerous army, crossed the Pyrenees, passed the Rhone, climbed the Alps, and rushing on the Romans with impetuosity, gained four pitched battles, which excited a general belief that the subjugation of Rome would speedily follow.

Q. Did Han'nibal ultimately succeed ?

A. No; but the Romans confessed, that 'if Han'nibal had known how to make use of a victory as well as he knew how to gain one, Rome had been utterly ruined.'

Q. To whom and to what did the Romans owe their safety ?

A. To the valour of three great men, Fa'bius Max'imus, Marcel'lus, and the younger Scip'io, and to the faults which Han'nibal committed in suffering his army to indulge in every kind of pleasure, instead of pushing his conquests, which gave the Romans time to regain their strength.

Q. How long was Han'nibal in Italy, and in what manner was this war brought to a conclusion ?

A. Hannibal was in Italy sixteen years, but at length was obliged to leave it for the defence of his own country; for Scip'io, with a view of removing Han'nibal out of Italy, had taken a large army into Africa, and driven everything before him.

Q. What happened upon Han'nibal's arrival in Africa ?

A. A desperate battle ensued between him and

Scip'io, defeated he fled in Carthage peace as

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Scip'io, near Za'ma, when Han'nibal was totally defeated; and, despairing of retrieving his fortune, he fled into Asia, which concluded the war, and the Carthagin'ians were obliged to submit to such a peace as the Romans chose to dictate.

Q. What name did Scip'io obtain by this expedition.

A. That of Africa'nus.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of the Wars of Macedo'nia and Antio'chus.

Q. When was the first war between the Romans and Macedo'nians?

A. A little after the peace of Car'thage, in the year of Rome 550.

Q. What was the occasion of this war?

A. It was occasioned, by the conduct of Philip, king of Macedo'nia, who assisted Han'nibal when he was master of Italy.

Q. Which of the powers proved successful?

A. The Romans; and Philip was obliged to sue for peace, which was granted to him, on condition that he should no longer lay pretensions to any of the cities of Greece.

Q. When did the war of Antio'chus commence?

A. In the year of Rome 562.

Q. Why did he declare war against the Romans?

A. He was instigated to it by Han'nibal who was then a refugee at his court.

Q. What was the result of this war?

A. Anti'ochus was vanquished by Lu'cius Scip'io, and was obliged to make peace on disadvantageous terms.

Q. Was this peace of long duration?

A. About twenty years, when Philip, king of

Ma'cedon, again prepared for war; and in the year 586, Per'seus the son of Philip, was entirely defeated by Æmil'ius, with the loss of thirty-thousand men, which was the cause of the final destruction of the kingdom of Macedo'nia.

CHAPTER XXV.

Of the third Pu'nic War.

Q. WHEN did the third Pu'nic War begin?

A. In the year of Rome 605.

Q. What gave occasion to this war?

A. The Carthagin'ians violated the articles of peace, and declared war against Massinis'sa, king of Numid'ia, who was an ally of the Romans.

Q. How long did this war continue, and in what manner did it end.

A. It continued four years, when Car'thage was taken by Pub'lius Corne'lius Scip'io, who levelled it with the ground; thus an end was put to the Punic wars, by the total destruction of the Carthagin'ians*.

* Car'thage was thus destroyed after having been a formidable rival to Rome above 100 years, and 708 years after it was first built. This great event happened in the 608th year from the building of Rome; in the year of the world 3859; 363 years since the beginning of the Consular State, and 144 years before the birth of Christ. The city of Car'thage, which was amazingly populous, was 24 miles in circumference, enjoying the advantages of commerce with many nations, and adorned with many beautiful edifices. It was 17 days in flames; and Scip'io, the Roman general, is reported to have wept over its ruins: but his countrymen at home felt no such sentiments, for the Senate of Rome celebrated its downfall by extraordinary rejoicings, commanding that it never should be rebuilt, and denouncing

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CHAPTER XXVI.

The wars of Cor'inth and Por'tugal.

Q. WHY did the Romans declare war against the Corin'thians ?

A. For having given some offence to the Roman ambassador, who was residing in their city.

Q. How did it terminate ?

A. in favour of the Romans, to the destruction of the Corin'thians, and also of their capital, which was burnt to the ground.

Q. What was the cause of the war in Por'tugal ?

A. A prince, whose name was Viria'tus, had usurped the sovereignty of that country, but it was retaken in the year of Rome 608; the Romans having meanly bribed three of the friends of Viria'tus to murder him in his sleep.

CHAPTER XXVII.

The destruction of Numan'tia in Spain.

Q. WHEN was Numan'tia destroyed ?

A. Sixteen years after the destruction of Car'thage.

Q. By whom were the Romans commanded ?

A. By Scip'io, the same who destroyed the city of Car'thage.

Q. How long did this war continue ?

A. Nine years; but after the Numan'tians had

the heaviest curses on any that should attempt it. The site of this celebrated city is near the present city of Tunis, and on its ruins there now stands only a small village called *Melcha*.

been shut up for some time within their own walls, they killed themselves out of despair.

Q. What then became of Numan'tia?

A. It was razed to the ground; and thus all Spain became a province of the Romans.

Q. DID there not arise, soon after this, some domestic commotions?

A. Yes; the war with the slaves.

Q. Who was the chief of the slaves who excited this commotion?

A. En'nus, a Syr'ian by birth, who counterfeited a divine revelation, and encouraged his fellow slaves to revolt.

Q. How many of these slaves did he assemble together?

A. About seventy thousand, with whom he defeated four Roman Prætors; but in the year 622, he was vanquished by the consul Rupil'ius.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Wars against Jugur'tha and Mithrida'tes.

Q. WHAT was the cause of the war against Jugur'tha?

A. Because he had unjustly deprived the lawful heirs of the kingdom of Numid'ia, and made himself king.

Q. Who were the lawful heirs?

A. Hi'empal and Ather'bal, the grandsons of Massinis'sa, an ancient and faithful ally of the Romans; they were both cruelly murdered by Jugur'tha.

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A. No ; the corrupt senators were bribed to screen his guilt, and he would have escaped with impunity, but for the exertions of a few patriots.

Q. How was the war conducted ?

A. The Romans were at first unsuccessful, owing to the treachery and incapacity of their generals, but when Metel'lus was appointed to the command, he defeated the usurper in every engagement.

Q. By whom was the war brought to a successful termination ?

A. By Ma'rius, whom the favour of the people enabled to supplant Metel'lus. Jugur'tha was delivered in chains to Syl'la, the lieutenant of Ma'rius, and being sent to Rome, was starved to death in prison.

Q. Did any remarkable quarrel arise at the conclusion of this war ?

A. Yes ; the vanity of Syl'la, who claimed the merit of having subdued Jugur'tha, gave great offence to Ma'rius, and laid the foundation of that jealousy and hatred which finally caused a long and calamitous civil war.

Q. When began the war against Mithrida'tes ?

A. In the year of Rome 660.

Q. Who was Mithrida'tes ?

A. King of Pon'tus, in Asia, one of the best officers of his day ; who, though often beaten, was never discouraged, and was always rising again ; but he was the most faithless and cruel of men.

Q. Why did the Romans declare war against Mithrida'tes ?

A. Because he had dethroned Ariobarza'nes, king of Cappado'cia, and Nico'medes, king of Bithyn'ia, and possessed himself of their dominions.

Q. How long did this war continue, and in what manner did it terminate ?

A. It continued two years, with various successes, but concluded in the total ruin of Mithridates.

Q. What was the cause of the civil war between Marius and Sulla?

A. Ambition on both sides; it lasted several years, during which the leaders of the hostile parties were guilty of the most shocking outrages and horrible massacres. Eventually Marius was defeated, and his supporters cruelly put to death by Sulla.

Q. What did Pompey and Crassus in the year of Rome 691?

A. They marched into Judea, took Jerusalem by force, and levelled the walls of it to the ground. Judea was then made a tributary province to the Roman empire.

Q. During the absence of Pompey in Asia, what important event occurred in Rome?

A. Catiline, and several others, conspired against the state; but the plot was discovered by Cicero, who put to death several of the leaders, and Catiline himself fell in battle.

Q. What were the designs of Catiline?

A. To murder Cicero and the principal senators, to set fire to the city, and in the confusion, contrive to have himself proclaimed dictator. It was suspected that Julius Cæsar had joined in the plot, but no proof was ever brought against him.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Of the War between Cæsar and Pompey.

Q. WHEN began the war between Cæsar and Pompey?

A. In the year of Rome 693.

Q. What was the principal cause of this war?

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A. Ambition. Pom'pey, Cæ'sar, and Cras'sus, seeing themselves the most powerful men in the republic, made a league together, and so concerted matters, that the administration of all affairs should wholly rest in them. This government was called the *triumvirate*, from the Latin word *tres*, three, and *viri*, men.

Q. By what act was this treaty confirmed ?

A. By the marriage of Pom'pey with Cæ'sar's daughter.

Q. How did they share the empire between them ?

A. Cæ'sar took the government of Gaul, Pom'pey that of Spain, and Cras'sus that of Syr'ia.

Q. What did they after they had thus divided it ?

A. Cæ'sar and Cras'sus went each of them to their government, and Pom'pey staid at Rome, contenting himself by sending his lieutenants into Spain.

Q. What was Cras'sus's first action in Syr'ia ?

A. He pillaged the temple of Jerusalem, and carried away all its riches.

Q. What did Cras'sus do soon after his committing this sacrilege ?

A. He collected a powerful army, and marched against the Par'thians, but was entirely defeated by Sure'na, their general, and the greatest part of his men and himself were slain.

Q. After the death of Cras'sus, what did Cæ'sar and Pom'pey ?

A. Pom'pey not enduring an equal, nor Cæ'sar a superior, they naturally envied one another, till at length hostilities commenced between them. Cæ'sar having assembled all his forces in Gaul, marched to Rome, plundered the public treasury, when Pom'pey and his party abandoned Italy, and passed over into Greece.

Q. What did Pom'pey and Cæ'sar after this ?

A. They collected their armies, and met on the plains of Pharsa'lia, where they fought a terrible battle, when Pom'pey was totally defeated, and his army dispersed.

Q. What then became of Pom'pey ?

A. Pom'pey's courage forsaking him, he fled to Af'rica, where he was assassinated.

Q. What have you more to relate of Cæ'sar ?

A. Cæ'sar* returned to Rome, and was elected perpetual dictator, with the title of *Imperator*, or Emperor ; not in the sense in which it was formerly used, which was that of conqueror, but signifying the man that possessed the whole authority of the republic, which may be considered as the beginning of the imperial government of Rome, though it was not established till some years after. Consequently, at this era, ended the republic, or commonwealth, and not a vestige of it remained, for the senate was dispossessed of all its power, and Rome from this time was never without its masters.

Q. In what manner did Cæ'sar afterwards conduct himself ?

A. Cæ'sar, now possessed of absolute authority, distinguished himself by acts of clemency and munificence ; and in a short time gave law to the whole world. But his great success accelerated his ruin ; for his enemies, excited by Bru'tus and Cas'sius, attacked and murdered him in the senate-house, at the foot of Pompey's statue, which put an end to all his glory. B.C. 44.

* This is the Ju'lius Cæ'sar who crossed over from Gaul into Britain.

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CHAPTER XXX.

The political state of Rome during the Republic.

Q. WHAT effect had the expulsion of the kings on the political condition of the Romans?

A. It placed the entire power of the state in the hands of the nobles, and this class usurped the possession of all the offices of government, to the exclusion of the great body of the people.

Q. Into what classes were the citizens of Rome divided?

A. Into the *Patricians* or Aristocracy, and the *Plebeians* or Democracy. As the patrician dignity was hereditary, the contest between these classes had something of a national character, and was never completely terminated until both fell together beneath the tyranny of the emperors.

Q. What were the consequences of this exclusive power?

A. The Patricians virtually possessing all the power of making laws, and absolutely holding in their hands the administration of justice, cruelly oppressed the lower classes.

Q. Against what laws did the Plebeians complain most loudly?

A. Against the laws that regulated the relations between debtors and creditors, and those which regarded the distribution of the conquered lands.

Q. How were the laws respecting debt oppressive?

A. A debtor, when unable to pay, became the slave of his creditor, and was subject to be beaten and tortured at his pleasure; the Patricians were the usual money lenders, they demanded an exorbitant rate of interest, and as the prætors or judges belonged to their own class, they were always able to

obtain a decree against any unfortunate wretch whom they wished to plunder or oppress.

Q. How did the distribution of the conquered lands furnish a just ground of complaint?

A. It was originally established as a rule by the kings, that all conquered lands should be divided among the poorer classes of the citizens. The Patricians, however, soon began to prevent this distribution, they had these lands kept as a kind of public property, which they leased out to each other for pasturage.

Q. What were the laws for distributing the public lands among the citizens called?

A. They were named Agrarian Laws. Some writers have strangely enough represented them as interfering with private property; but they were in all cases laws for a better appropriation and more equal distribution of the lands belonging to the state.

Q. One of these, called the Licinian law, is frequently mentioned; what was its peculiarity?

A. It subjected to a heavy fine and forfeiture, any person who held more than five hundred acres of the public land. It derived its name from Licinius the proposer, who was the first person fined under the act after it came into operation.

Q. By what means did the Plebeians at different times force the Patricians to make concessions?

A. *They seceded*; that is, they retired in a body to some neighbouring hill, and refused to return to the city until their requests were granted. The senate, after some show of opposition, was usually forced to yield.

Q. What great advantage did the Plebeians gain by the first secession?

A. The right of having magistrates chosen from their own body, whose persons should be sacred

and inviolable rights and

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and inviolable, and whose duty it was to defend the rights and liberties of the people.

Q. By what name were these magistrates known, and what was their power ?

A. They were called *Tribunes of the people*, their number was at first five, but was afterwards increased to ten, but the consent of all was necessary to any act of state. They first sat outside the door of the Senate, but afterwards obtained seats in the body of the house. Their sanction was necessary to give any law validity.

Q. Did any evil result from the monopoly of the administration of justice by the Patricians ?

A. Yes ; and the evil was much aggravated by the want of a written code of laws : when every thing was left to the uncontrolled discretion of the judge, he naturally warped his decrees to please his own party.

Q. How was this defect remedied ?

A. After a long struggle, ten men, thence called *Decem'viri*, were engaged to compile a body of laws, and they were invested with the supreme power of the state, while the code was in preparation. The laws which they prepared were called the laws of the Twelve Tables, and are deservedly celebrated.

Q. What became of the *Decem'viri* ?

A. They are said to have abused their power most shamefully. At length *Ap'pius*, one of their number, having attempted a scandalous outrage on the daughter of *Virgi'nus*, a brave soldier, the popular indignation could no longer be restrained, and the *Decem'viri* were deposed.

Q. How did the Patricians contrive to retain their power over the Plebeians ?

A. Chiefly by the agency of superstition ; the Romans held no public assembly without taking auguries ; that is, having a priest called an augur

to observe the sky, and see whether there was any appearance of an unfavourable omen; also if any magistrate, during the meeting, declared that there was any omen threatening evil seen or heard by him, the meeting was instantly dissolved. Now the college of augurs was composed entirely of Patricians, and the cunning priests contrived to find the omens favourable or otherwise, as best suited their own interests.

Q. Did they make use of any other contrivance?

A. Yes; if too closely pressed, they proclaimed a war, and ordered an army to be levied; the Plebeians; having once taken the military oath, were bound to obey the general until the end of the campaign, and were thus effectually prevented from paying any attention to the affairs of the state.

Q. Had they not sometimes recourse to a more violent expedient?

A. Yes; they sometimes created a dictator, a magistrate whose power was absolute and without appeal during his continuance in office. More rarely they lodged absolute power in the hands of the consuls, which was done by voting 'that the consuls should use their utmost endeavours to prevent the state from receiving detriment.'

Q. Did the Patricians always retain their monopoly of official situations?

A. No; the Plebeians perseveringly sought emancipation, and wrested privilege after privilege from the Aristocracy. Their first great triumph was opening the consulship to Plebeian candidates. This was gained by Licinius, author of the Licinian law already mentioned; he is said to have been urged to make this exertion by his wife, who envied the honours enjoyed by one of her sisters that had married a Patrician.

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Q. What great advantage did the Plebeians gain respecting criminal trials, and when did they obtain it?

A. The Plebeians procured an enactment, that persons accused of treason against the people should be tried before the assembly of the tribes (*comitia tributa*); where they had a decided majority, and at which there was no necessity for taking omens. It was by this assembly that Coriolanus was tried (Chapter XVIII.); and he appears to have been the first Patrician that was tried before a Plebeian tribunal.

Q. When did the greatest struggle take place between the Patricians and Plebeians?

A. In the time of the Gracchi, Tiberius and Caius Gracchus, though connected with the most illustrious Patrician families, were strenuous advocates of the rights of the people; but being bitterly persecuted by the Patricians, and badly supported by the people themselves, they became the victims of their own rashness.

Q. In what manner did the Patricians use their victory?

A. They treated with the greatest cruelty every person that was suspected of favouring the popular rights; and, contrary to the laws of Rome, established inquisitions by torture, to discover fresh victims. These sanguinary measures preserved the power of the nobility unimpaired until the period of the Jugurthine war (Chapter XXVIII.)

Q. What was the effect of Sylla's usurpation on the Roman constitution?

A. He made the state completely an oligarchy, in which a few nobles were masters of their own order as well as the entire community. Pompey, more through hatred of the oligarchy than love of the people, restored the power of the tribunes, and thus

brought back, at least, the semblance of the old constitution.

Q. Did Pompey long continue attached to the popular party ?

A. No ; he soon returned to the Patricians, with whom he was most intimately connected by birth and education ; after him Julius Cæsar became the leader of the popular party, and was zealously supported by the Plebeians even after he had established a military despotism.

Q. What forms of government were used in the Roman colonies and dependencies ?

A. They varied at different times ; but the most important kinds were the *municipal towns*, whose inhabitants shared the privileges of Roman citizens ; the *free colonies*, which, in addition to this, had the right of electing their own allies ; the *Latin right* (*jus Latium*), and the *Italian right* (*jus Italicum*) a lower kind of citizenship granted to the inhabitants of Italy ; the *allied towns*, which paid tribute, but preserved their national constitutions ; and the *subject states*, which were governed by magistrates appointed by the Roman Senate.

Q. What were the sources of the Roman revenue ?

A. A tribute was occasionally but rarely levied on the citizens in proportion to their property ; a more regular property-tax was exacted from the allied states ; and the subject states usually paid both a property and poll-tax. The national lands were a regular source of revenue, they were leased out at a stipulated rent for pasturage, but when used for tillage the state claimed the tenth of the produce : the mines, especially those in Spain, contributed large sums to the support of the Roman government ; there were also duties on slaves, and charges for harbour-dues.

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Q. What were the supreme magistrates in the republic called ?

A. The consuls and dictator have been already mentioned ; on some occasions military tribunes were elected with consular power, and the administration was twice intrusted to Trium'viri, and once to Decem'viri.

Q. Who were the censors ?

A. They were magistrates chosen to preside over the emoluments of the people in their respective classes, and to take care of public morals. They could remove a person guilty of any flagrant crime from a higher to a lower class, and deprive him of the right of suffrage. The monopoly of the censorship was longer retained by the Patricians than that of the consulship, but eventually it was also opened to the Plebeians.

Q. Were the republican forms preserved under the empire ?

A. Yes ; the Senate was regularly consulted by even the most despotic of the emperors, but assemblies of the people were rarely held, and the emperors assumed the tribunician power, as it made their persons inviolable.

Q. How many kinds of assemblies had the Roman people ?

A. Three ; 1. The assembly of the *curiæ*, or parishes, into which the city was divided ; this was the most ancient form, but it soon fell into disuse, and was only summoned during the republican period for religious purposes : 2. The assembly of the *centuries*, in which the citizens were classed according to the taxes paid to the state, where consequently the rich usually had a majority : and 3. The assembly of the *tribes*, which was exclusively under the control of the Plebeians.

Q. What were the privileges of a Roman citizen?

A. By the Sempronian and other laws, it was enacted that no citizen could be punished with stripes, and could not be put to death without an appeal to the people.

Q. Were these laws always regarded?

A. No; in times of civil tumult, the leaders of different parties, but more especially the Patricians, slaughtered their opponents without mercy. When the conspiracy of Catiline was discovered, the principal contrivers were put to death by a vote of the Senate. But this was clearly illegal, and Cicero, the consul, was afterwards banished for having obeyed the decree.

Q. What was the Equestrian rank?

A. An order in the state between the Patricians and the Plebeians; it consisted for the most part of the younger branches of the nobility. The knights, as they were called, were supplied with a horse and ring at the expense of the states, and from them the inferior magistracies, especially those connected with financial affairs, were supplied.

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68 Gal'ba
69 O'tho
69 Vitel'
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79 Ti'tus
81 Domi
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HISTORY OF ROME UNDER ITS EMPERORS.

The following is a Chronological Table of the Emperors of Rome, from Julius Cæsar to Honorius.

Julius Cæsar was made Emperor in the year of Rome 705, and was assassinated in the year 710.

Augustus took the government of Rome in the year 711, and in 724, after the death of Mark Antony, he was sole emperor; and thus held the empire 56 years, and the monarchy 43. He died in the 14th year of the Christian era.

A.D.	EMPERORS.	yrs.	A.D.	EMPERORS.	yrs.
14	Tibe'rius.....	22	218	Heliogab'alus	3
37	Calig'ula.....	3	222	Alexander.....	13
41	Clav'dius.....	13	235	Max'imus and his son	2
54	Ne'ro.....	13	38	Pupie'nus & Balbi'nus,	
68	Gal'ba 6 mo. 7 days			10 months	
69	O'tho, 3 mo. 5 days		238	The Gordia'ni.....	6
69	Vitel'lius, 8 mo. 5 days		244	Phil'ip and his son	5
69	Vespa'sian.....	16	248	De'cius and his son	3
79	Ti'tus.....	2	251	Gal'lus and Volu'sian	2
81	Domi'tian.....	11	254	Vale'rian.....	6
96	Ner'va.....	1	59	Gallie'nus.....	8
97	Tra'jan.....	19	268	Claud'ius II.	2
117	A'drian.....	20	270	Quintil'ius, 15 days	
138	Antoni'nus Pi'us	22	273	Aure'lian.....	5
161	Mar'cus Aure'lius	19	275	Ta'citus, 3 months	
180	Com'modus.....	12	275	Floria'nus, 6 mo. 6 days	
193	Per'tinax, 2 mo. 26 days		276	Pro bus.....	6
193	Julia'nus, 2 mo. 5 days		282	Ca'rus.....	1
294	Seve'rus.....	17	232	Nume'rian, slain in	
211	Caracal'la and Geta	6		the year 284	
117	Macri'nus and his son	1	282	Cari'nus, slain in 284	

A.D.	EMPERORS.	yrs.	A.D.	EMPERORS.	yrs.
284	Diocle'sian	- 2	360	Julian the Apostate	1
286	Maxim'ian	- - 18	363	Jo'vian, 7 mo. 22 days	
304	Gale'rius and Con- stantius		364	Valentin'ian and Va'lens	3
306	Con'stantine the Great	- 30	367	Gratian	7
337	Constan'tine Con'stans, and Constan'tius	24	375	Valentin'ian II.	4
			379	Theodo'sius the Great	16
			395	Hono'rius	2

CHAPTER XXXI.

Of the Origin of Julius Cæsar, the first Roman Emperor, and of Augustus.

Q. WHAT was the origin of Ju'lius Cæ'sar?

A. He was descended from one of the most ancient families of Rome by his mother's side, and from the kings of that country by his father's.

Q. Was there no other memorable event in the reign of Cæsar besides those mentioned in the last chapter?

A. Yes; his life is full of wonderful events; but the principal which our limits will permit us to speak of, are those of the reformation of the calendar, and of the destruction of the Alexandrian library of 400,000 volumes.

Q. What do you mean by the reformation of the calendar?

A. Before the time of Cæsar the year was made to consist of 355 days, by Nu'ma; but, by Cæ'sar's alteration, it was made to consist of 365 days, six hours; six hours he reserved to the end of every

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fourth year, to make a complete day, which day he placed before the 6th of March, and called that year *Bissex'tile*: this manner of computation was hence called the *Julian*, from *Ju'lius Cæsar*, the inventor.*

Q. Was not then *Cæ'sar* a man of learning?

A. Yes; he was the most elegant writer of his time. He has left behind him some orations and a commentary of his actions. It is said that he could write, read, and pay attention to what was said to him at the same time. His history, though unadorned with rhetorical figures, is written in a most pure and elegant style, and has been valued and admired by all nations.

Q. What was the state of Rome after the death of *Cæsar*?

A. For a time it neither found peace nor plenty; *Mark An'tony* excited a sedition, and made a considerable party.

Q. Did *Antony* meet with no opposition?

A. Yes; he was opposed by *Octa'vius*, the younger, grand-nephew to *Cæsar*, on behalf of the senate; but these two chiefs afterwards uniting, associated with them *Lep'idus*, a man of no character, and formed the second triumvirate.

Q. What followed the formation of the second triumvirate?

A. Dissensions arose in every corner, and Rome was deluged with blood. *Ci'cero* fell one of its earliest victims. *Bru'tus* and *Cas'sius*, to whom the senate had given the command of the army, were defeated in *Thes'saly*, and liberty perished with them.

Q. What followed the defeat of *Bru'tus* and *Cas'sius*?

* The *Catechium of Chronology* contains ample information on this head.

A. A war between An'tony and Oc'tavius ; who, after having reduced Lep'idus to a private station, opposed each other. An'tony, overcome at Ac'tium, fled into Egypt, whither he was attracted by the charms of Cleopa'tra. Every thing gave way to the good fortune of Octavius ; Alexandria opened its gates to him. Cleopa'tra and An'tony killed themselves ; and Egypt became a Roman province.

Q. How was Octa'vius received by the Romans on his return ?

A. He was saluted by the senate with the title of Emperor Augustus. The temple of Ja'nus was shut up ; the whole world lived in peace under his power ; Rome returned into a monarchical state ; and JESUS CHRIST *came into the world.*

Q. How long did Augus'tus reign ?

A. He possessed the empire fifty-six years, and held the monarchy forty-three years, esteemed and honored by all nations. By the protection he afforded to literature, knowledge arrived at the highest state of perfection. In his time appeared Vir'gil, Hor'ace, Phæ'drus, Ovid, Catul'lus, Tibul'lus, Propert'ius, and Titus Liv'ius.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Of the Reigns of Tibe'rius and Calig'ula.

Q. By whom was Augus'tus succeeded ?

A. By Tibe'rius, his adopted son, the son of Liv'ius and Tibe'rius Ne'ro.

Q. What was his character ?

A. He was noted for his dissolute way of life, and was universally hated for his cruelty, his covetousness, his debaucheries, and his pride.

Q. How long did he reign, and by whom was he succeeded ?

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A. He reigned twenty-two years and six months, and was succeeded by Calig'ula.

Q. From whom was Calig'ula descended?

A. He was the son of German'icus and Agrippi'na, and nephew to Tibe'rius.

Q. What was his character, and how long did he reign?

A. The commencement of his reign promised happiness to his subjects; but he soon became cruel, debauched, and foolish, which produced a conspiracy against him, and cost him his life. He reigned three years, ten months, and eight days, and was succeeded by Clau'dius.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Of the Reigns of Clau'dius, Ne'ro, Gal'ba, O'tho, Vitel'lius, Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian.

Q. WHO was Clau'dius?

A. He was the son of Dru'sus, brother to German'icus, uncle to Calig'ula, and a nephew to Tibe'rius.

Q. What was his character?

A. He was a man of weak intellect; when he was proclaimed emperor, he hid himself in a corner of his palace, through fear of being murdered. His misfortunes in general were owing to his wives; the first, Messali'na, dishonoured him, for which he put her to death; and the second, Agrippi'na, the daughter of German'icus, poisoned him, after a reign of thirteen years, in order to make way for her son Ne'ro to the throne.

Q. How did Ne'ro conduct himself?

A. For several years he governed well, being under the direction of Bur'rus and Sen'eca, who had been

his preceptors; but afterwards corrupted by Pop-pæ'a, a profligate woman, and Tigelli'nus, he became a monster of cruelty, extravagance and debauchery. He murdered his mother, his wife Octa'via, the daughter of Clau'dius, Sen'eca, the poet Lu'can, Petro'nus Ar'biter, who had been the minister of his pleasures, the virtuous Thra'sea, and others without number.

Q. Did not Ne'ro cause his guards to set Rome on fire, in order to make it represent the burning of Troy?

A. Yes; and above two-thirds of the city were destroyed.

Q. Whom did he charge with doing it?

A. As he had a mortal hatred to the Christians, he accused them, and soon after he raised a horrible persecution against them. Many were devoured by wild beasts, or burnt alive. In this persecution St. Paul was beheaded, and St. Peter crucified.

Q. What was the end of Nero?

A. Being deserted by the army and the senate, he put an end to his own existence, in order to avoid a more ignominious death, after a reign of fourteen years. He was the last emperor descended from the Cæ'sars.

Q. What became of the empire at the death of Nero?

A. Ne'ro was succeeded by Gal'ba, then Ot'ho, Vitel'lius, and Vespa'sian, four generals; the three first of whom, after reigning for a short period, met with untimely deaths. Vespa'sian reigned ten years with great wisdom; but his virtues were tarnished by a sordid parsimony. In his time the Jewish nation was exterminated, and Jerusalem burnt and levelled with the ground, by his son Ti'tus; and according to our Saviour's prediction, not one stone was left upon another.

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Q. Who succeeded Vespa'sian ?

A. His son Ti'tus, high'y celebrated for his uncommon virtues and talents, and for his mild and excellent administration. He reigned two years and two months.

Q. What remarkable event happened in his reign ?

A. An eruption of Mount Vesu'vius took place, in which Plin'y the elder perished ; and the cities of Hercula'neum and Pompe'ii were buried by the lava which issued from it.

Q. Who succeeded Ti'tus ?

A. His brother Domi'tian, a monster of vice and cruelty. Under the oppression of this tyrant, Rome groaned fifteen years. He was murdered by his domestics, A.D. 96 ; and was the last of those who were called the twelve Cæ'sars.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of the Reigns of Ner'va, Tra'jan, A'drian, Antoni'nus Pius. Mar'cus Aure'lius, Lu'cius Ve'rus, and Com'mo'us.

Q. WHO was Ner'va ?

A. A person of quality, a native of Nar'nia, a city of Um'bria, in Italy. He was an excellent prince. He reigned one year and four months, and was succeeded by Tra'jan, a native of Sev'ille, in Spain.

Q. What was the character of Tra'jan ?

A. He was one of the greatest generals that ever sat upon a throne. He was good-tempered, merciful and prudent.

Q. What were his principal conquests ?

A. He defeated the Da'cians ; subdued Arme'nia, Ibe'ria, and Col'chis ; overthrew the Samar'itans,

Astre'nians, and Ara'bians; he also attacked the Par'thians, gave them a king, and took from them Arme'nia, Persia, Selou'cia, and Bab'ylon.

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. By A'drian, his cousin, who devoted himself wholly to peace, and abandoned all Tra'jan's conquests.

Q. What were the principal events of his reign?

A. He gave a king to the Germans, remitted the tribute-money of the Arme'nians, and gave them leave to elect a king of their own. It was he who built the famous wall from Carlisle to Newcastle, in order to secure the Britons from the insults of the Picts.

Q. Who succeeded A'drian?

A. Antoni'nus, a Gaul, who was born at Nismes, a city of Languedoc. He was an amiable and good man, and was surnamed *Pius* on account of his virtues. He reigned twenty-two years, and was succeeded by Mar'cus Aure'lius (his son-in-law), and Lu'cius Ve'rus; but after them came the wicked Com'modus, the son of Mar'cus, a wretch in whose mind every sentiment of virtue was extinct.

Q. What became of Com'modus?

A. His base conduct brought upon himself the hatred of the senate and the people, so that he was induced to commit suicide.

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CHAPTER XXXV.

Of the Reigns of Per'tinax, Julia'nus, Seve'rus, Caracal'la and Ge'ta, Macri'nus, Heliogab'alus, Alexander Seve'rus, Max'imus, Pupie'nus and Bulbi'nus, Gordia'nus, Philip, De'cius, Gallus, and Vale'rian.

Q. By whom was Com'modus succeeded ?

A. By Per'tinax, an ancient senator. He was descended from mean parents, a Geno'ese by birth, and was an exceeding valiant, modest, discreet, and good man. He was sacrificed by the very soldiers who, a short time before, had raised him to supreme power. He reigned two months and six days.

Q. What then became of the empire ?

A. It then became a prey to the most ambitious, and was put up for sale to the highest bidder. It was purchased by Did'ius Julia'nus, who was killed in the fifth month, by order of his successor Seve'rus.

Q. What are the principal events of his reign ?

A. As a soldier, he triumphed in all parts of the world ; he defeated his competitors Ni'gel and Albi'dus ; degraded the senate ; directed an expedition into Britian, in the year 208 ; built the wall from the Forth to the Clyde ; and died at York A.D. 211, after reigning seventeen years and eight months.

Q. By whom was he succeeded ?

A. By his son, Caracal'la and Ge'ta, then Macri'nus and Heliogab'alus, the scourge of mankind.

Q. Who was Macri'nus ?

A. He was a Moor by birth, and originally of very mean condition. He reigned one year and two months. Heliogab'alus was the son of Caracal'la ; he reigned three years and nine months ; and was succeeded by his cousin-german, Alexander Seve'rus ;

who was one of the greatest princes that ever lived. He was murdered at Mentz, in a mutiny of the soldiers, after a reign of thirteen years.

Q. By whom was he succeeded ?

A. By Max'imus and his son, the former of whom was a general in the army, and originally a shepherd of Thrace. He proved to be a merciless tyrant. He was murdered by the guards, after reigning two years.

Q. In what situation was Rome at the death of Maximus ?

A. It was now entirely subjected to military government. The soldiers made and unmade emperors at their pleasure ; and more than fifty are reckoned up in the course of the following fifty years.

Q. By whom was Maximus succeeded ?

A. By Balbinus and Pupienus, who were murdered by the army ; and were succeeded by Gordianus, who, in his turn, was murdered by Philip.

Q. Who succeeded Philip ?

A. Decius, whose reign is remarkable for the cruel persecution of the Christians during the two years that he filled the throne. The reigns of Gallus, Volusianus, and Æmilianus were of short duration, and were succeeded by Valerianus, who was made prisoner by Sapor, king of Persia.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Of the Reigns of Gallienus, Claudius, Quintilianus, Aurelius, Tacitus, &c.

Q. Who succeeded Valerian ?

A. His son Gallienus, who was an effeminate prince, and was killed by his soldiers. Under his administration a number of pretenders sprang up at once, known by the name of the thirty tyrants.

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Q. What became of the empire amidst all these troubles ?

A. During these convulsions, the empire was daily declining, and was attacked by enemies on all sides.

Q. Who succeeded Gallie'nus ?

A. Clau'dius II., who was one of the greatest as well as the most accomplished princes of his time. He defeated the Goths near the Dan'ube, with a terrible slaughter, A. D. 269. Quintil'ius, his son, reigned only fifteen days. After him came Aure'lian, who defeated Zeno'bia, queen of Palmy'ra, and took her prisoner.

Q. What became of Aure'lian ?

A. He was slain by Meucap'orus, after a reign of five years. He was succeeded by the aged Ta'citus, who reigned six months, and was succeeded by his brother Floria'nus, and from whom the empire was soon wrested by Pro'bus, the governor of Syr'ia, who was slain in a mutiny of the soldiers, after a reign of six years.

Q. Who succeeded Pro'bus ?

A. Ca'rus ; but he had only reigned one year when he was struck dead by lightning. He left the empire to his two sons, Numeria'nus and Cari'nus, but they enjoyed it for a very short time.

Q. Who succeeded Cari'nus ?

A. Diocle'sian, a native of Dalma'tia, who was of very obscure parents, but proved to be a man of superior merit. He chose Maxim'ian as his colleague, to whom he gave the west, and took the east for himself ; he also created under them Constan'tius and Galle'rius, whom he called Cæsars : so that the empire was now under four masters.

Q. How long did they reign ?

A. Diocle'sian reigned two years, and Maxim'ian eighteen ; and were succeeded by Constan'tius and

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Galle'rius. They were succeeded by Constantine the Great, who was born at York, in Britain.

Q. What were the principal events of his reign ?

A. Constantine was the first Christian emperor ; he transferred the seat of government from Rome to Byzan'tium, which afterwards took the name of Constantinople, A.D. 330.

Q. To whom did Constan'tine leave his empire ?

A. To his three sons, Con'stantine, Constan'tius, and Con'stans, each of whom being desirous of enlarging his territory, a dreadful civil war ensued, and they soon fell a sacrifice to one another's ambition ; while the empire, thus divided, soon became a prey to the different barbarous nations by whom it was surrounded.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Of the Reign of Julian the Apostate.

Q. Who succeeded the sons of Con'stantine ?

A. Ju'lian the Apostate, the son of Con'stans, brother to Con'stantine the Great. He was called an apostate on account of his relinquishing Christianity, and restoring Paganism. He was a valiant prince, but extremely superstitious.

Q. What were the principal events of his reign ?

A. He forced the Germans, who had invaded Gaul, to repass the Rhine ; but was slain in an expedition against the Persians, A.D. 363. He was succeeded by Jo'vian, who was obliged to conclude a dishonourable peace with the Persians. He restored the Christian religion, and died after reigning seven months and twenty-two days.

Q. Who succeeded Jo'vian ?

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tuous prince ; who, reserving the west to himself, made his brother Va'lens emperor of the east.

Q. What became of Va'lens ?

A. He imprudently permitted the Goths to settle in Thrace, to the amount of 200,000 men ; who, being joined by the Huns and Alans, took up arms against the Romans, and defeated them in a great battle, near Adriano'ple, in which Va'lens perished with most of his army.

Q. Who succeeded Va'lens ?

A. Gra'tian and Valentin'ian, neither of whom did any thing of importance ; but their successor, Theodo'sius the Great, vanquished all the enemies of the Romans, and gave peace to his empire. At his death he bequeathed the empire to his sons Arca'dius and Hono'rius.

Q. What countries were now under the government of Arca'dius and Hono'rius ?

A. Arca'dius reigned over Thrace, A'sia Mi'nor, Syr'ia, and Egypt ; and Hono'rius assumed the government of Italy, the Barbary States, Gaul, and Britain ; but, ere long, new tribes of barbarians succeeded one another, rushed in on all sides, and swept every thing before them, which soon caused the downfall of the Roman power.

Q. Who were the people that caused the greatest desolation in the Roman empire ?

A. The Goths, the Huns, the Lom'bards, and the Van'dals, who ravaged the several provinces of it, erected new kingdoms, and established their laws and customs wherever they came.

Q. By whom was Rome first taken ?

A. By AVaric, king of the Goths, who gave it up to be plundered by his soldiers for five days, A. D. 410. This eminent city, which for nine hundred years had defied the attacks of all its enemies, even of the

great Han'nibal, was ravaged and plundered at the discretion of the barbarous conquerors.

Q. Who was the last emperor of the west ?

A. Augustulus ; after a short and disgraceful reign he was forced to abdicate by Odoacer, general of a German tribe called the Her'uli ; the conqueror took the title of king of Italy, and thus announced that the dominion of Rome was no more.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Account of the Barbarous Tribes that destroyed the Roman Empire.

Q. WHEN did the barbarous nations first begin to assail the Roman empire ?

A. The Vandals and Alans, the first whose progress menaced danger, began their incursions in the beginning of the fifth century.

Q. From what countries did they come ?

A. The Vandals were natives of the south-eastern part of Austria ; the Alans came from the neighbourhood of the Caucasus.

Q. What countries did they lay waste ?

A. Being joined by some German tribes, they first devastated Gaul, after which they passed into Spain, and occupied the province, called from them Vandalusia, since corrupted into Andalusia. After some time, they crossed over into Africa, and founded a kingdom there, which was overthrown by the celebrated Belisarius.

Q. Were not these barbarians soon succeeded by more formidable hordes ?

A. Yes ; the Goths, who are said to have been originally natives of northern Europe, but who had

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long been settled on the northern coasts of the Black Sea, and being driven from their habitations by the Huns, were forced to seek refuge in the territories of Rome. Being badly treated by the imperial governors, they took up arms, and spread desolation over the entire empire. Rome itself did not escape them; the city was twice plundered by these ruthless barbarians.

Q. Where did the Goths finally establish their dominion ?

A. In the southern provinces of France and Spain.

Q. You have mentioned the Huns; who were they ?

A. The Huns—a race even more ferocious than the Goths—were natives of the steppes, or half-desert plains of Siberia and Tartary; countries from whence savage hordes have issued more than once to spread ruin over the fairest portions of Asia and Europe.

Q. Did the Huns found any kingdom ?

A. No; while their great commander, Attila, lived, they were virtually the masters of southern and western Europe; but after his death they were divided into a number of petty states, which gradually decayed.

Q. What tribe became the masters of Gaul ?

A. The Franks, an association of German tribes, that took the name of Frankmen, or Freemen, from their determined resolution to preserve their liberty.

Q. Was there any other formidable confederation of the German tribes ?

A. Yes; that of the Allemanns, so named from *all* and *man*, words still preserved in our language, because they were composed of men from all the tribes promiscuously. The chief seat of their power was the country between the Danube and the Rhine

whence they made frequent incursions into the Roman territories.

Q. Did any of the German tribes invade England ?

A. The Saxons and Angles, being invited over to help the Britons against the Picts and Scots, made themselves masters of South Britain, which they named Angle-land, since corrupted into England. The Normans, who subsequently seized the country, were a Scandinavian tribe that had settled in that part of France called, from them, Normandy.

Q. Did any other Germanic tribe render itself formidable ?

A. The Burgundians were among the most formidable of the Germanic tribes ; they occupied southern Germany, Switzerland, and the province of France, which still retains their name.

Q. Did not a Scandinavian tribe seize northern Italy ?

A. Yes ; the tribe of the Lombards, or, more properly, Long-bards, so called from the length of their *bards* or pikes, seized the north of Italy, which, from them, was called Lombardy.

Q. Was any other tribe joined with the Lombards ?

A. Yes ; the Avars, a ferocious body of warriors, who, like the Huns, came from the steppes of Tartary, and, after having vanquished the Gepidæ, a nation on the left bank of the Danube, penetrated into western Europe.

Q. Did any other formidable nation come from Tartary ?

A. The Bulgarians were another Tartar horde, they threatened ruin to the Eastern Empire, but their leaders were destitute of talent, and their power was speedily overthrown. Thus, Constantinople was reserved for a time, to become the mockery of the Saracens and the booty of the Turks.

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Q. Who were the Saracens ?

A. The inhabitants of Arabia, whom Mohammed converted by his preaching, and then persuaded them that it was their duty to spread his religion by the sword. His successors, called Caliphs, conquered Syria, Egypt, Persia, and wrested from the Eastern Empire all its Asiatic provinces. Internal dissensions among the Saracens themselves, alone prevented them from becoming masters of Constantinople.

Q. Who were the Turks ?

A. The Turks, like the Huns and Bulgarians were a nation of Scythian or Tartar origin. They were employed as mercenaries by the Saracenic Caliphs ; but they rose against their masters, and subverted the empire. Their progress was delayed by the Crusades, but finally they crossed the Hellespont, and (A.D. 1453) conquered Constantinople. Thus the Eastern Empire fell, a little less than a thousand years after the Western Empire had been destroyed.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Roman Literature.

Q. WHEN did the Romans first begin to direct their attention to literature ?

A. At the close of the first Punic war: their instructors were the Greeks, who had colonized southern Italy ; and, in consequence of this, the Roman literature is, in a great degree, a mere imitation of the Greek.

Q. What department of literature seems first to have become popular ?

A. Dramatic entertainments first engaged the attention of the Romans, as, indeed, of most other nations. They seem to have been chiefly delighted with satirical dramas; but when these were made the vehicles for libels on the leading public men, a law was passed to restrain the license of the stage; and the poets then invented a new species of composition, called satire.

Q. Who was the first inventor of satire?

A. Lucil'ius, who is said to have lashed the vices of his age with unsparing severity; but his fame is eclipsed by that of his successors—Hor'ace, whose delicate wit charmed the court of Augus'tus; Ju'venal, the bold declaimer against the vices that prevailed in imperial Rome; and Per'sius, the stern supporter of the severest forms of the Stoic philosophy.

Q. Is not didactic poetry connected with satirical?

A. Satire may be called a species of didactic poetry. The Romans, however, had some poems solely devoted to instruction; as the poem of Lucre'tius on the Universe, inculcating the tenets of the Epicurean philosophy; the Georgics of Vir'gil, giving instruction in agriculture; and Hor'ace's Epistle to the Pi'sos on the Art of Poetry.

Q. Had the Romans any panegyric poets?

A. In the later ages of the empire they had scarcely any other kind of poets; and their flatteries were, for the most part, as stupid as they were base. Clau'dian, however, is an exception; his poem in praise of Stil'icho possesses real merit.

Q. Were there many epic writers among the Romans?

A. There were several; but the chief were En'nus and Næ'vius, whose works are lost; Virgil, the prince of the Latin poets, whose Æne'id is second

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only to Homer's *Il'iad* ; Lu'can, the author of the *Pharsa'lia*, an epic poem on the civil wars of Rome ; Sta'tius, whose great powers were too little controlled by judgment ; Vale'rius Flac'cus, whose choice of a subject was unfortunate ; and Sil'ius Ita'licus, who was an humble imitator of Virgil.

Q. Had not the Romans several amatory poets ?

A. A great number of the Roman poets devoted themselves to the composition of amatory elegies and other poems, of which love was the subject. The chief were Catul'lus, Tibul'lus, and Propert'ius ; but, above all, O'vid, the most prolific of the Roman poets. The works of the amatory poets are, unfortunately, sometimes disfigured by passages offensive to proper feeling.

Q. Who was the principal lyric poet among the Romans ?

A. The Romans were far inferior to the Greeks in lyrical poetry ; but the Odes of Catul'lus and Hor'ace are held in deserved estimation.

Q. Had the Romans any distinguished epigrammatist ?

A. The Epigrams of Martial are considered the best that any country has produced : his wit, however, too often outruns his discretion ; and his works are, consequently, less popular than they might have been.

Q. In what department of poetry have the Romans succeeded best ?

A. The pastoral poetry of the Romans is that species which has met most general approbation. Virgil, the chief of the epic, is also the best of the pastoral poets. The pastoral poems of Calpur'nus also merit great praise.

Q. Had not the Romans a celebrated writer of fables ?

A. The Fables of Phæ'drus—though the stories were not invented by him—are written in such a simple and pleasing style, that they justify the great praise that has been bestowed upon him by critics.

Q. Who are the principal Roman historians ?

A. Livy, who wrote the history of Rome from the foundation of the city to the age of Cæsar ; Sallust, who treated of some isolated events—such as Catiline's conspiracy, the Jugurthine war, &c. ; Cæ'sar, who wrote Commentaries on the history of his own times ; and Ta'citus, who described the history of Rome at a most important period of the empire. To these, perhaps, we should add Justin, who abridged the Universal History of Trogius Pompeius, Flo'rus, Pater'culus, and Eutro'pius, who wrote summaries of Roman history ; Vale'rius Max'imus, who compiled anecdotes of eminent men ; Corne'lius Ne'pos, the author of the Lives of Illustrious Men ; and Sueto'nious, who wrote the biographies of the Roman emperors, usually called the 'Twelve Cæsars.' There were also several others of less importance.

Q. Did Rome produce any eminent orator ?

A. Ci'cero was not only the best of the Roman orators, but, with the single exception of Demos'thenes, the best that the world has ever produced. He was no less eminent as a philosopher, and many of his philosophic writings have never been excelled. Sen'eca is also distinguished by his treatises on moral philosophy, which are as excellent in matter as they are delightful in manner. It is doubtful whether Sen'eca wrote the tragedies commonly ascribed to him.

Q. Had the Romans any scientific writers ?

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lost; the most eminent that remain are Pliny in natural history, and Celsus in medicine.

Q. Did any Roman writers treat of criticism?

A. The principal Roman treatises on criticism that have come down to our times are, Quinctilian's 'Treatise on Oratory,' the 'Attic Nights' of Au'lus Gellius, and the 'Saturna'lia' of Macro'bius.

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