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Mary Stuart Fontaine

Mary Fontaine Poore





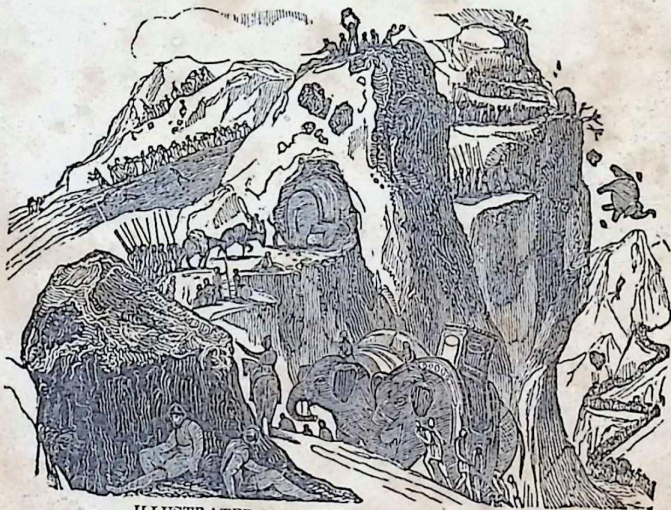
PETER PARLEY'S TALES

ABOUT

ANCIENT ROME,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF

MODERN ITALY.



ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

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PREFACE.

A short time since, the author prepared a little work on Ancient Greece, which is now before the public. As the preface to that work would not be inappropriate to this, the author inserts it as explanatory of his views in the compilation of the following pages.

“The following pages are not intended for mere children, or grave scholars. The first would not comprehend them, and the last would bestow upon them only a sneer. I have imagined myself surrounded by an audience of boys and girls about ten or twelve years of age, and to these, or such as these, I address my story. If in talking of a classical age, I have sometimes used colloquial or commonplace terms; if I have illustrated the adventure of Hercules and the Nemean Lion by a reference to Putnam and the Wolf; if I have brought Athens and Sparta into homely comparison with our own republic, and subjected even Jupiter to the test of our yankee morality; I beg the critical reader to consider two things; first, who I am, and second, who I am talking to.

I speak not as a scholar, in these pages, but as a plain man addressing those who are yet ignorant of the subject, and who will

lend their imagination to a simple narration of what has passed in a remote age. While it is my endeavor to amuse, I would not let any opportunity escape to communicate knowledge, and implant principles of virtue in the hearts of my young listeners. I attempt only to give them an outline of the history of Greece, and enable them to form some tolerably just estimate of the people who figure in the pages of her history. If the result should be only that I have interested my readers, and awakened curiosity that shall lead to farther reading, and a more careful study of the subject, my expectations will be abundantly fulfilled. It is only necessary for me to add, that I have occasionally taken a sentence, or passage from other writers, without marking it in quotations. If therefore the reader discovers any thing in the volume which does not suit my humble quill, I beg them to give Goldsmith or Gillies credit for it.

PETER PARLEY'

NOTE.

It is perhaps proper to say that a part of this volume has been written by a friend, in the absence of the author, on account of ill health.

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PETER PARLEY'S TALES

OF

ANCIENT ROME

AND MODERN ITALY.

CHAPTER I.

About Italy. Its situation. Boundaries. Extent. Shape. Direction from various countries. Seas. Gulfs. Islands. Kingdoms. Rivers. Mountains. Lakes. Capes. Towns.

1. ITALY is, at the same time, one of the most beautiful, and most famous countries in the world. It has a charming climate and fine scenery, and produces many delicious fruits. It has also been the scene of many remarkable events, and was the seat of the most powerful empire of antiquity.

2. In the following pages I propose to describe this country as it now is, and then relate its story, from the earliest ages, to the present time. I propose to tell you of the mountains, and rivers, and lakes, and cities; of

1. What of Italy? How many years is it since Rome was founded?

the inhabitants; their manners, customs, and religion; and thus having given you an idea of the condition of the country, I propose to carry you back two thousand five hundred years, and beginning with Romulus, proceed to detail the wonderful story of Ancient Rome and Modern Italy.

3. If you will look on the map attached to this volume, you will perceive that Italy is a long, narrow peninsula, lying between the Mediterranean sea on the west, and the Gulf of Venice and Adriatic sea on the east. It is about seven hundred miles in length, and about three hundred and fifty miles in width at the northern part. In the middle, it is about one hundred and forty miles wide. This peninsula lies in a direction nearly northwest and southeast, and in shape is imagined to resemble a boot, of which the kingdom of Naples forms the foot and ankle, and several other divisions the leg.

4. The northern boundary of Italy is formed by a lofty range of mountains, called the Alps, whose tops are covered with everlasting snow. These separate it from France, on the northwest; Switzerland and Germany, on the north, and Austria, on the east.

5. The Adriatic sea separates Italy from Turkey and Greece. To the south, lies the Mediterranean sea,

3. What is the shape of Italy? Where is it situated? Length? Width of the northern part? Southern part? In what direction does it lie? What does it resemble in shape? 4. What of the A

and beyond, the shore of Africa. A part of the Mediterranean sea lies between Italy and Spain. Italy lies in a direction almost exactly east of Boston, New York, or Philadelphia, and is about southeast from England. It is nearly four thousand miles from the United States, but London is not more than seven or eight hundred miles from Rome.

6. Before we proceed farther, I request the reader to study the map, so that he may be able to answer the following questions. I believe the book will be found more interesting to the pupil, after he has made himself acquainted with the shape of the country, and the situation of the mountains, rivers and towns.

5. Where is the Adriatic sea? What direction from Italy is the Mediterranean sea? Direction of Italy from Boston, New York or Philadelphia? From England? Distance from the United States? From London?

Questions on the Map.

Where is the Adriatic sea? Where is the Tuscan sea? The Mediterranean sea? Gulf of Venice? Gulf of Genoa? Gulf of Taranto? Gulf of Naples? Gulf of Salerno? Gulf of Policastro? Gulf of Trieste? Gulf of Squillace? Gulf of Cagliari? Gulf of Parma? Gulf of Oristagni? Gulf of St. Fiorenzo? Gulf of Valinco? Gulf di Porto? Gulf of Ajaccio? Where are the straits of Messina? Where are the straits of Bocifacio? What range of mountains in the north of Italy? What part of Italy is bordered by one corner of France? What part of Italy is bordered by Switzerland? Where is Italy bounded by a part of Germany? What part of Italy is bounded by a portion of Austria? Where is the island of

Sicily? Corsica? Sardinia? Where are the Lipari islands? Where is Malta? Elba? How is Naples bounded? States of the Church? Tuscany? Modena? Parma? Lombardy and Venice? Kingdom of Sardinia?

Tell which way the following rivers flow, and where they empty? Tiber, Po, Arno, Volturno, Bradirno, Basiento, Ofanto, Biferno, Saugas, Pescara, Adige, Piava, Adda, Arne, Ombrone, Tasi, Manna, Platina.

Where are the Appenines? Through what divisions of Italy do they extend?

Where is Mt. Etna? Mt. Vesuvius?

Where are the following lakes? Perugia, Garda, Como, Maggiore, Celano.

Where is C. di Luca? C. Spartivento? C. Rizzuto? C. Passaro? C. Hero? C. Gargano? C. Tentado? C. Carbonara? C. Corso?

Where is Rome? In what direction from Rome and in what division of Italy are the following towns? Milan, Florence, Naples, Messina, Parma, Modena, Turin, Venice, Verona, Lucca, Pisa, Taranto, St. Marino, Cagliari, Bastia, Palermo, Syracuse, Bonifacio, Ajaccio, Porto Vecchio, Pavia, Bologna, Ancona, Tivoli, Salerno, Orioieto, Manfredonia, Catania, Ravenna, Piacenza, Leghorn, Ponte Corvo, Alessandria, Saluzzo, Vicenza, Genoa, Padua, Pescara, Aquila, Otranto, Benevento, Corte, Como, Savona.

CHAPTER II.

Kingdom of Naples. Sicily. Appenines. Mt. Vesuvius.

1. THE kingdom of Naples lies at the southern extremity of Italy, and consists of two parts; 1st. that

1. Where is the kingdom of Naples? Division? Government? King?

which lies upon the peninsula, and 2nd. the large island of Sicily. This kingdom is under the government of one monarch, who is sometimes styled, the king of the two Sicilies.

2. The continental part of this kingdom is two hundred and eighty miles in length if measured from the heel, and three hundred and sixty miles if measured from the toe. It is in extent about equal to the state of Pennsylvania.

3. Sicily is two hundred and fifteen miles in length, and little more extensive than the state of Vermont. The population of the whole kingdom is about seven million; about two million of which belong to Sicily.

4. The Appenine chain of mountains extends through the whole of Naples, including the island of Sicily. These are not as elevated as the Alps, but one of the peaks near the northern boundary of the kingdom, is eight thousand seven hundred and ninety feet high. This is about one hundred and fifty feet higher than Mt. Washington in New Hampshire.

5. Many of the Appenines are covered with trees to the very top; others are cultivated, and some are entirely divested of forest. There are several roads

2. Length of the continental part measured from the heel? Measured from the toe? Extent? 3. Length of Sicily? Extent? Population of Sicily? 4. What of the Appenines? Height of one of the peaks? How much higher is it than Mt. Washington? 5. What of the Appenines? Roads over them?

over these mountains, and many towns and villages are situated upon their slopes, or in the valleys between them.

6. There are four volcanoes in this kingdom which deserve particular notice. Mt. Vesuvius is situated at the distance of about six miles from Naples, in a southeasterly direction. It lifts its summit above the horizon in such a manner, that the inhabitants of that place look across the beautiful bay, and see its smoke ascending to the clouds, or its fires lighting up the sky.

7. The lower part of this celebrated mountain is covered with villages and country seats, fields of maize, groves of trees, and other luxuriant productions. There are vineyards bending with grapes; fig trees and orange trees, stooping with their burden of fruit; beside olive trees and many others which only grow in a warm and beautiful climate

8. As you ascend the mountain to the distance of two or three miles, the prospect changes. The cultivated regions cease, and all appears bleak and desolate. In some places, the ground is covered with lava, which in former ages has run down the sides of the mountain in a red, burning torrent. But these streams are now cold, and appear only like rough masses of blackish stone.

9. At length, you reach the top of the mountain. This is a kind of plain, in the centre of which is a wide crater, through which the smoke, flame, and ashes

6. Volcanoes? Vesuvius?

ascend into the air, and from which the lava is poured out upon the sides of the mountain.

10. Vesuvius is three thousand seven hundred and ninety one feet above the level of the sea. It continues at all times to send forth smoke from its top, as if there were a vast manufactory, perpetually at work in the bowels of the earth, and this were the chimney by which the smoke escapes. But at certain intervals of time, ashes are thrown from the crater, in such prodigious quantities as to fill the sky like a cloud, and descend in showers upon all the neighboring country for miles around.

11. Sometimes, too, terrible rumblings are heard in the mountain, like the rapid discharge of artillery, or the deep bellowing of distant thunder. Sometimes, a blazing column of fire shoots up to the very sky, shedding on every object around, a red and frightful glare.

12. At night, the scene is terrible. The mountain and valley, the sea and city seem on fire. The sky, too, is lighted up, and a heavy cloud of black smoke, that sails away in the distance, seems like mingled light and darkness. But suddenly the vast pillar of flame ceases, and appears to drop down into the crater.

13. The most complete darkness follows for a time, but soon an intense light is seen on the top of the mountain; the lava begins now to gush out, and large rocks, heated to redness, are hurled high into the air, then descending in bending lines to the earth.

14. The lava now comes down the sides of the

mountain like a flood, overturning every thing that resists its progress; it rapidly descends, covering the cultivated fields, blasting the orchards and spreading desolation around. Sometimes it reaches the villages, and overwhelms them with the burning mass.

15. Such is an eruption of Vesuvius, which occasionally happens. One of the most dreadful occurred in 1794. The lava, at that time, covered and totally destroyed five thousand acres of rich vineyards and cultivated land, and drove the inhabitants of Torre del Greco from the town; most of the houses being either burned, or so injured as to be uninhabitable. The damage done in the neighboring vineyards by the ashes, was immense.

16. Many other terrible eruptions of this volcano are recorded in history. In the year 79, about one thousand seven hundred and fifty years ago, two towns, then belonging to the Roman empire, called Herculaneum and Pompeii, were buried by the stones, ashes, and other substances thrown from the crater of Vesuvius.

17. These places were situated at the foot of the mountain, and appear to have been so suddenly overwhelmed, as to give the inhabitants no opportunity of escape. Within a few years, a large number of workmen have been employed to clear away the ashes and other rubbish which covered these places.

18. About one fourth part of Pompeii has been

16. Describe the eruption of 79. 17. What of Herculaneum and Pompeii? 18. Describe the present appearance of Pompeii.

cleared; it has narrow paved streets, with stone buildings of one or two stories high. It seems to resemble a modern Italian town; and as it was built more than one thousand seven hundred and fifty years ago, it appears, that the style of building in ancient times, was similar to that of the present day.

CHAPTER III.

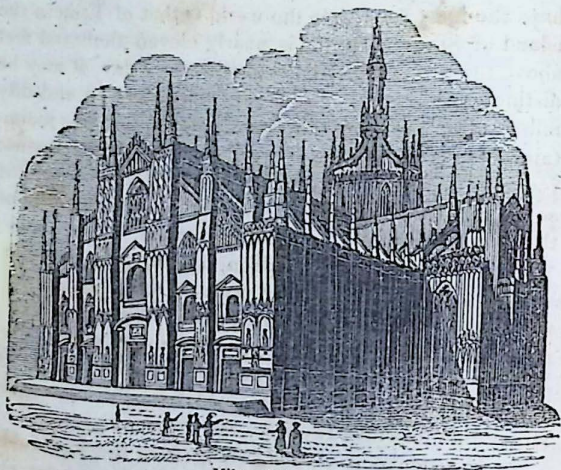
Lipari islands. Volcanoes. Stromboli. Etna. Towns and villages around. Ascent to the top. View of Malta, Italy, and other surrounding objects. The crater.

1. THE Lipari islands are about ten in number, and lie near the northern coast of Sicily. They contain a population of fifteen thousand persons. The two most remarkable islands are Stromboli and Volcano, each of which contains a volcanic mountain. That of the latter is about half a mile in height, and never ceases to send forth smoke and flame from its top.

2. Stromboli consists chiefly of a volcanic mountain, in constant activity from time immemorial, having two summits, one of them about three thousand feet in height. The eruptions last but a few moments at a time, but recur again at short intervals; the flames, seen by night at a great distance being of great service to navigators,

1. What of the Lipari islands? What of the island of Volcano?

2. Describe Stromboli. What is it called by navigators?



Milan Cathedral.

have procured for this island the name of the great lighthouse of the Mediterranean.

3. But the most remarkable volcano of Italy and perhaps the most famous in the world is that of Etna in the island of Sicily. Its top is nearly eleven thousand feet above the level of the sea, and in a clear day, it may be distinctly seen at the distance of one hundred and fifty miles. No less than thirty two eruptions of this mountain are recorded in history, and it is said that immense rocks have been thrown from the crater to the height of seven thousand feet, and have fallen at the distance of thirty miles from the top of the mountain.

4. At the time of an eruption, nothing can exceed the awful sounds which fill the bowels of the mountain and shake the whole island. The lava overflows, and like a river descends, spreading desolation on every side. During an eruption which happened in the year 1669, the streams of lava, which issued from the crater, destroyed no less than twenty-seven thousand persons.

5. The smoke is always issuing from the top of Mt. Etna, but the eruptions only take place at long intervals. It is therefore perfectly safe for people to ascend the mountain and look into the crater.

6. In going from the foot of the mountain to the top, a person must travel about thirty miles. The lower parts

3. What is the height of Mt. Etna? What is said of it? 4. Describe an eruption. What of the eruption in 1669? 6. Describe the lowest portion of Mt. Etna.

are thickly inhabited, there being upon them no less than seventy-seven towns and villages, besides numerous monasteries. These include a population of one hundred and twenty thousand persons. The fields are covered with green pastures, cornfields, vineyards, and fruit trees of every description. Nothing can exceed the luxuriance and beauty of nature in this portion of the mountain, which covers an extent of about fifteen miles from its base.

7. After this fertile region is past, you come to an uncultivated, but rugged belt of land, extending around the mountain. This is covered with trees, and the air which in the lower parts is exceedingly hot, is here cool and refreshing. You will here find a chestnut tree which is very celebrated for its bulk, the trunk being one hundred and ninety-six feet in circuit.

8. Beyond this second zone or belt, is a third, which is totally destitute of vegetation, and presents a dreary and almost terrific aspect. The ascent is steep, rugged and difficult, and when you arrive at the top, you find the peaks covered with broad patches of snow and ice.

9. The air is exceedingly cold, but you scarcely heed it, for before you, is the horrid crater of the most famous volcano in the world, and around you, is one of the most extensive and sublime prospects which can be presented.

10. To the south, at the distance of one hundred and

7. What of the uncultivated or woody district? 8. What of the third region? 9. What is before you in this region?

fifty miles, you may have a faint view of Malta. To the northeast, is the southern extremity of Italy with the range of the Appenines, passing through its centre. All around you is the distant sea, and below, lies the beautiful island of Sicily, unrolled like a map, and streaked by rivers, studded with mountains, and dotted with multitudes of towns, villages, and cities.

11. If these views are beautiful, the yawning crater of the volcano is terrific in an equal degree. It is about one third of a mile across, and the smoke issuing from various cavities, points out the channels, by which the bubbling lava has gushed forth to desolate and destroy. Such is Etna, and no person can visit it but with feelings of awe.

CHAPTER IV.

Rivers of Naples. Climate. Vegetation. Sheep. Silk. Wine. Fruit. Vessels. Travelling in Sicily. Inhabitants. Dwellings. Coral Fisheries. Palermo. Messina. Syracuse. Cave of Dionysius.

1. THERE are no large rivers in the kingdom of Naples; but small streams are perhaps more beautiful than large ones and there are many of these in the con-

10. What can you see from the top of Mt. Etna? 11. Describe the crater.

1. What of the rivers of Naples?

tinental part of the country, as well as in the island of Sicily. They descend from the steep mountains, leaping and sparkling like the rivulets of New Hampshire and Vermont. Many of them present charming cascades, and others flow gently through the cultivated valleys, and amidst hills whose slopes are covered with vineyards and groves of lemon and orange trees.

2. The climate of the low countries is like that of Georgia, or Alabama. Snow never falls, except among the mountains. The days are often excessively hot, but the nights are refreshed by sea breezes. Sometimes the air is very chilly at night, and the inhabitants are obliged to be provided with thick cloaks

3. There is an indescribable richness of vegetation throughout the kingdom. Although the inhabitants are



The Olive tree.

2. Climate? 3. Vegetation? Productions? What of the Olive tree?

indolent, and cultivate the land poorly, still the country abounds in delicious and useful productions. A great deal of maize and wheat are produced upon the continent; upon the former the common people almost entirely subsist, while the latter is sent abroad for sale. Olive trees abound; and from the fruit, a great deal of olive oil is made, and is exported to various places.

4. The inhabitants of the continent have large flocks of sheep, which are chiefly kept upon the mountains. They pay great attention also to the raising of silk-worms, which produce large quantities of silk. Much of this is sold in France, and then manufactured into cloth.

5. A great deal of wine is made in different parts of the kingdom, and particularly in Sicily. Oranges, lemons, figs, and almonds are raised in the latter for exportation. Honey is produced in abundance, and that of Hybla near Melelli, has been celebrated for hundreds of years.

6. Nothing can be more delightful than a visit to the beautiful and fruitful island of Sicily. I have myself been there and tasted the delicious grapes and sweet oranges which grow on every hand. Many vessels go from the United States to the towns of Messina, Palermo and Syracuse, for the purpose of getting wines, oil,

4. What of sheep? Silk worms? 5. What of wine? Fruit? Honey? 6. Why do vessels go to Sicily? What will delight a traveller in Sicily?

and various fruits. Perhaps my reader may chance to go in one of these vessels, to Sicily, and see the country I have been describing.

7. On his arrival, he will be delighted with the warm, clear weather, and the charming aspect of the hills and valleys. He will look with wonder and admiration upon the smoking top of Mt. Etna, and if he rides, or rambles into the country, he will look with great pleasure upon some of the beautiful little villages and fine country seats and dashing rivers.

8. He will not, however, look with equal pleasure upon the inhabitants. They have black eyes, black hair, and an olive complexion. They would be good looking, were it not that they are so meanly clad. They are generally very ignorant, for there are no schools for the common people. There are some who live in great luxury, but the greater part are miserably poor.

9. Their dwellings are wretched in the extreme; the people generally sleep on the ground, and a family possessing the luxury of a bed, are thought rich. Their food is also very miserable, and they have seldom enough of it.

10. Before you leave Sicily, you should pay a visit to the coral fisheries. These are extensive and valuable. The coral grows in the sea at a considerable depth, and the fishermen have machines for breaking it off, and

8. Describe the people of Sicily. 9. Their dwellings? Food
10. What of coral fisheries? Coral?

bringing it up. It is of three kinds, white, red and black. The red is the most used, but the black is the most rare and costly. The coral obtained on the coast of Sicily, is sent to England and France, and large sums of money are obtained for it.

11. The largest city in this island is Palermo. It is nearly equal to the city of New York in population, and is remarkable for the number and magnificence of its churches. Some of the streets are handsome, but the others are narrow, winding and dirty. On entering Palermo, you will be struck by the amazing crowds of people in the streets. The city swarms with beggars of the most wretched appearance, and poverty seems common to all ranks.

12. Messina is the second town in Sicily. It has a fine harbor, and high hills rising behind it. The city presents a very remarkable appearance when approached from the sea. Its commerce is extensive, and it has a population of eighty thousand.

13. Messina has been remarkable for its misfortunes. It was visited in 1743, by the plague, a dreadful disease which occasionally prevails in the towns around the Mediterranean, and thirty-five thousand of the inhabitants became its victims. Forty years after, one half of the whole city was shaken to the ground by an earthquake, and no less than eight hundred of the inhabitants perished.

11. What of Palermo? 12. What of Messina? 13. What of its misfortunes?

14. Syracuse was anciently a large and flourishing city, but it is now reduced to fifteen thousand inhabitants. It has a beautiful harbor, and exports wine, oil, hemp, wheat and other things. In this city, are many interesting remains of former ages, among which are numerous tombs and chambers beneath the ground, where the dead were buried.

15. There is also a cave, one hundred and seventy feet long, and sixty feet high, called the speaking grotto. Near the entrance, is a small chamber, where the slightest whisper in the cavern may be heard. It is said that an ancient ruler, whose name was Dionysius, and who was called the tyrant of Syracuse, used to confine his prisoners in this cavern. It is also said that he was accustomed to place himself in the little chamber, so that he might hear whatever they said. For this reason, the cavern was called the Ear of Dionysius.

CHAPTER V.

People of the continent of Naples. Robbers. Commerce. Government. Pirates. State of the country. Naples. Beggars. Lazaroni. Population. Commerce. Exports. Streets. Edifices. Other towns.

1. WE will now leave the beautiful island of Sicily, and take a closer survey of the continental part of the

14 What of Syracuse? 15. Describe the cave of Dionysius

the robbers are left to infest the mountains, and pirates are permitted to roam freely over the seas.

4. In small, but swift vessels, they hover along the coast, and make a prey of whatever they can find. Thus every thing being insecure, the people have few inducements to become enterprising, and as is natural, they neglect their opportunities, and sink into a state of weakness and want.

5. Such is the character and condition of the people of this country. They have a miserable government, and therefore, they are themselves miserable. In this sad condition, they will doubtless remain, until they themselves destroy the government, and construct another, designed and fitted to secure the happiness of the nation.

6. There is, perhaps, no part of the world which excites in the bosom of a stranger so many opposite feelings as Italy. If he looks at the inhabitants, he every where sees a display of the most degrading poverty; if he contemplates the natural objects around him, he is filled with admiration.

7. Every thing but man seems divine; the hills, and valleys, and rivers, and bays, every thing upon the land and the sea, is beautiful; the air itself is balmy and full of fragrance, and the sky is as blue as that

4. Pirates? 5. Condition of the people? 6. What contrasts are exhibited to the stranger in Italy? 7. How does the country appear?

which is spread over our own country in the brightest days of summer.

8. These remarks are particularly illustrated by the city of Naples. The bay which spreads out before it, is probably the most beautiful in the world. On the east, is Vesuvius; while the whole shore is lined with swelling hills of every form and magnitude. Many of these are occupied by the town; while others exhibit a multitude of villas, surrounded by bending vines and luxuriant orchards of oranges, lemons, olives and figs. It is not possible to conceive of anything more beautiful in scenery than all this.

9. But, when the stranger enters the town, he will find himself in a city, which absolutely swarms with beggars. He will even meet with a class of persons, called Lazaroni, who live from generation to generation, without houses, without homes, without occupation; a race who get their food by charity and chance, go almost naked, and sleep at night on the steps of the churches, or under the public porticoes. There are thousands who never taste of meat, and enough of macaroni which is a kind of bread, drawn into long tubes, is quite beyond their expectations or their hopes.

10. The population of the city of Naples is about three hundred and fifty thousand, which is nearly twice

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8. What of the city of Naples? Describe the country around it.
9. What of the beggars in Naples? Lazaroni? 10. Population of Naples? Commerce? Exports?

kingdom of Naples. We shall find the people, excepting those who reside in the large towns, almost entirely occupied in the pursuits of agriculture. Some till the land, and raise wheat and Indian corn, and we shall probably see in the fields, the husbands holding the plough, while their wives are employed instead of horses or oxen, to drag it through the ground. Some of the people are taking care of their silkworms, some, of their bees, and some, of their olive trees.

2. If we have occasion to travel over the mountains, we must be well guarded, for fierce robbers live there, called banditti, who are armed with dirks and pistols, and often beset the unprotected traveller. If we visit the sea coast, we shall see many fine bays and harbors, which seem to invite the inhabitants to become a commercial people; yet we shall find them inattentive to these gifts of nature. The commerce of the country is given up to foreigners, while the Neapolitans live in indolence and poverty.

3. This conduct arises, however, chiefly from the weakness of the government. The king, who rules over the country, considers the people as his subjects, and he manages the affairs of the country with a view to his own gratification, rather than the good of the people. While he and his court are devoted to luxury,

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1. What of the people on the continental part of Naples?
 2. What of Robbers? What of the people of the sea coast?
 3. What of the government?

CHAPTER VI.

*About the kingdom of Sardinia. Savoy. Mountains.
People. Piedmont. Turin. Provinces of Nice and
Genoa. City of Genoa. Island of Corsica. Sardinia
Animals. Population.*

1. I MUST now direct the attention of my young reader to the northwestern portion of Italy. He will there find by looking on the map, a mountainous region, bordered on the west by France; on the north by Switzerland; on the east by other Italian states; and on the south by the Mediterranean. This territory, with the large island of Sardinia, lying south of it, constitutes the kingdom of Sardinia.

2. The continental part of this kingdom may be divided into four portions; the northwestern corner is called Savoy, and is almost entirely covered with the mountain ranges of the Alps. Some of these rise up to the clouds, and are covered with perpetual snow. Others are formed by bleak rocks, upon whose peaks no trees are seen. Between these rugged and desolate mountains, there are many little narrow valleys, where the Savoyards live. They are a swarthy, but simple and honest race.

1. Where is the kingdom of Sardinia? 2. How may it be divided? What of the Alps? Where do the Savoyards live? What of them?

3. In the lower parts of the valleys, they raise some wheat, oats, barley, rye and hemp. The sides of the hills are covered with green pastures, where the people have herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats. On the mountains which slope towards the sun, they have a few vineyards.

4. Thus the people of Savoy have many comforts, but they are obliged to be very industrious, for their country is barren. They are however very much attached to it, and would not exchange their mountains with their snowy peaks, and their deep valleys, overshadowed by rocks and precipices, for the warm, and sunny regions of Sicily.

5. They have indeed many amusements, and are far happier than the indolent and wretched inhabitants of the more favored regions in the South of Italy. Thus it appears that a people who dwell in a bleak and barren country, and are at the same time industrious, enjoy life better, than those who inhabit a land of sunshine and summer, and are yet indolent.

6. Happiness, indeed, in all countries and all ages, depends more on the conduct of men, than on their situation. Industry will create gardens, filled with fruits and flowers, in the very midst of a cold and desolate country; while indolence will permit thorns and

3. Productions of Savoy? 4. Why are the people industrious? Do they love their country? 5. Are they happy? 6. What reflections are suggested to us by contemplating the life of the Savoyards?

brambles to spring up, and cover the richest, and most fertile fields.

7. Though Savoy is attached to the kingdom of Sardinia, it naturally belongs more to Switzerland than Italy. Piedmont, which lies farther south, has all the characteristics of an Italian country. It consists of an extensive and beautiful valley, surrounded on all sides by mountains. It is watered by the Po, and several smaller rivers.

8. The soil is fertile, and yields grain in abundance. The hills are spotted with cattle, and vineyards are seen on the southern slopes of the mountains. Silk is raised in great quantities and sent to France to be manufactured. Olives, almonds, chestnuts, oranges, figs, and lemons are produced in abundance.

9. Turin is the capital of Piedmont, and here the king of Sardinia resides. It stands on the west side of the Po, at the foot of a range of charming hills. To the northward, is a vast plain, bounded in the distance by the Alps. These rise suddenly like a battlement or wall, their glittering tops towering above the clouds.

10. Turin has one hundred and ten churches, and many splendid public and private edifices, where marble of every vein and color is lavished in profusion. The streets are broad, clean and straight. The king's

7. What of Piedmont? 8. Soil? Productions? 9. Describe Turin?

palace is spacious, and surrounded with delightful gardens. This city has one hundred and twelve thousand inhabitants.

11. The other divisions of the kingdom of Sardinia are Nice and Genoa. The former is a mountainous country with a fine climate. It is fertile, and covered with fruits and flowers during the summer. Nice is the principal town, with nineteen thousand inhabitants. The winter here is very delightful, and people in delicate health often resort to the place to enjoy the fine air.

12. The province of Genoa is separated by the Appenines from the rest of Italy. The climate is very mild, and all the fruits of Sicily flourish here. The city of Genoa is very ancient and very remarkable. It is built upon the edge of the sea, and spreads over a vast extent of crags, rocks, and declivities. The buildings are white, and rise one above the other, presenting a spectacle of the greatest magnificence. There are only two streets, through which carriages can pass; the rest are all extremely narrow. The number of inhabitants is seventy-six thousand. Many of them are engaged in manufacturing silks, and a kind of velvet, which is very celebrated for its richness and beauty.

13. Proceeding from Genoa to the island of Sardinia, we shall pass the island of Corsica. This is one hundred and ten miles in length, and seems by its situation

11. What of Nice? City of Nice? 12. Province of Genoa? City of Genoa? Buildings? 13. Describe the island of Corsica.

to belong to Italy. It is however under the government of France. It is covered with mountains, and has one hundred and seventy-four thousand inhabitants. It is remarkable as being the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte.

14. Sardinia is the largest island in the Mediterranean sea; it is one hundred and sixty-two miles long, seventy miles wide, and equals Massachusetts and Connecticut in extent. More than one third of the island consists of large sandy and stony districts; a considerable extent is composed of forests and pastures; the remainder is laid out in cornfields, vineyards, olive-grounds, orchards and gardens for the support of the people.

15. The country abounds in animals, both tame and wild. The herds of cattle and horses are very numerous; wild horses abound in the mountains, and wild boars which are fierce and terrible, are frequently met with. There are also great quantities of sheep and goats.

16. Cagliari is the capital of this island, and has twenty-six thousand inhabitants. It is well built, and contains some splendid palaces and churches.

17. Thus I have given you some account of the kingdom of Sardinia. It contains four million two hundred thousand inhabitants, four hundred thousand

14. Length, width, and extent of Sardinia? Face of the country in Sardinia? 15. What of animals? 16. What of Cagliari? 17. What is the population of the kingdom of Sardinia? Population of the island of Sardinia? What of the inhabitants?

of which belong to the island of Sardinia. The inhabitants in the different districts vary considerably. The common people are in general ignorant and poor, but they are more industrious than the Neapolitans.

CHAPTER VII.

*About Lombardy and Venice. Appearance of the country.
Milan. Venice. Other towns. Inhabitants.*

1. LOMBARDY and Venice, which are situated in the northeastern part of Italy, are distinct states, but they are both under the government of Austria. They occupy a level plain, nearly encircled by mountains. It is probably one of the most fertile spots on the face of the earth, and has often been called the Garden of Italy. Towns and villages are numerous, the population is immense, the atmosphere cloudless, and the beauty of the country in general, all that fertility and cultivation can give. Much care is bestowed upon the culture of vines, and many people pay great attention to the raising of bees. The rivers and lakes abound in fish.

2. Milan is the capital of Lombardy, and is a great and splendid city. The private buildings are not remarkably elegant; but the public edifices are very

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1. Where are Lombardy and Venice? What of the country?
 2. What of Milan? The cathedral?

Mount Etna.



superb. The cathedral is of white marble, and is the richest specimen of Gothic architecture in existence. It was begun several hundred years ago, and is yet, not quite completed. It is adorned with four thousand statues, sculptured in white marble.

3. The city of Venice is the capital of the Venetian part of Austrian Italy. It is one of the most famous cities in Europe, as well on account of its singular situation as its remarkable history. It is built upon about seventy small islands, in the Gulf of Venice. When seen from a distance, it appears like an immense collection of domes, spires, churches, palaces, and public buildings, floating on the surface of the water.

4. There are a multitude of canals through the city, but no roads or passages for streets or carriages. It is probably one of the stillest cities in the world, for there is no sound of horses, or vehicles of any kind. The people glide about on the canals in boats, which are called gondolas.

5. Many of these are fitted up in an elegant manner, and the Venetians have as much pride in their splendid gondolas, as the inhabitants of other cities have in their splendid coaches. The gondoliers row these boats with great skill and swiftness, and the inhabitants spend much of their time in sailing from one place to another.

3. For what is Venice famous? How is it built? How does it appear from a distance? 4. What of canals? Why is the city so still? 5. What of the gondolas?

6. In no part of the world are the evenings more beautiful than in Venice. The air is soft and warm, and the moon and stars shine down from skies without a cloud. At such times, all the inhabitants are abroad, and the multitude of gondoliers gliding upon the waters, seem like a flock of swans. The young and the old, the gay and the grave are all seeking for amusement. There is no rattling sound of carts and coaches, and nothing comes upon the ear but soft music, and the glad voices of the people who are abroad.

7. Yet, though such is the enchanting aspect of Venice, there is no city, where more cruelty and crime have been committed. There are still remaining deep and dismal prisons, where men have been confined till they have died from suffering; and in the very heart of the city, there is a bridge called the bridge of sighs, because the prisoners were accustomed to pass across it from their dungeons to the place of execution.

8. Venice was once the richest and most commercial city in the world. Long before our own country was settled and while London and Paris were yet in their infancy, this great city flourished with a degree of magnificence that has scarcely been surpassed. But her power has declined, her commerce is reduced, and the

6. Describe the evenings at Venice. 7. What of cruelty and crime? Prisons? Why is the bridge called the bridge of sighs? 8. What was Venice formerly? What is it at present? What is the population?

whole province is subject to a foreign yoke. The population of the city is one hundred and twenty thousand.



9. There are several other towns of importance within the limits of Austrian Italy. Verona has sixty thousand inhabitants and possesses many fine churches, palaces, and public buildings. Padua has forty thousand inhabitants, and is the birthplace of many celebrated men.

10. Thus I have given you some account of Lombardy and Venice. They constitute perhaps, the finest part of Italy: the inhabitants are many of them very poor and indolent, yet they are a handsome race, with black hair, black eyes, and good features.

9. What of Verona? Padua? 10. Inhabitants of Lombardy and Venice?

CHAPTER VIII.

About Modena. Parma. Lucca. Other States. Rome.
Antiquities. Coliseum. Public Baths.

1. To the south of Lombardy and Venice lies the small state of Modena. It is eighty-four miles in length, and twenty-five miles in breadth. The surface is waving with hills and valleys and the productions are wheat, wine, oil and hemp. The climate is delightful, and the inhabitants, were they more industrious, might all enjoy an abundance of the best gifts of nature. The city of Modena is the capital, and has twenty thousand inhabitants.

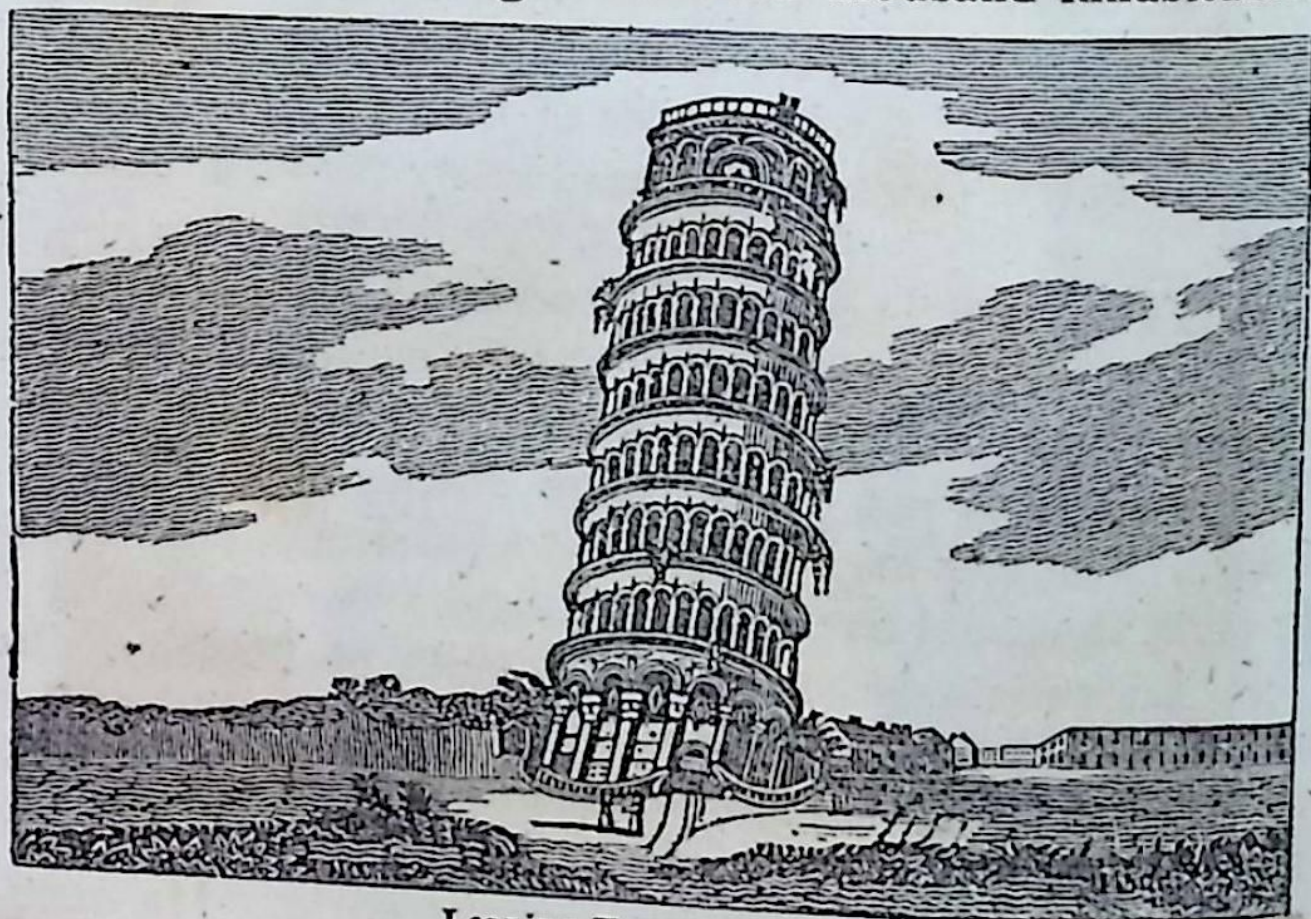
2. To the northwest of Modena is the state of Parma. This is about half as extensive as the state of Connecticut, and contains four hundred thousand inhabitants. The country is not as fertile as some other parts of Italy. The city of Parma is the capital, and has twenty-eight thousand five hundred inhabitants.

3. Lucca is a small state lying south of Modena. It is not more than one third as extensive as the little state of Rhode Island; yet the population is one hundred and forty thousand. Two thirds of the country are covered

1. Where is Modena? What is its length? Breadth? Climate? What is said of its capital? 2. Parma? 3. Lucca? Its population? Face of the country?

with mountains and deep ravines; the rest consists of a beautiful plain, in which the city of Lucca is situated. The fields are very fertile, and every plain and valley is covered with grain and fruits. The very slopes of the mountains are under cultivation almost to the tops, and on every hand olives, vines, chestnut and mulberry trees display their burden of fruit. The city of Lucca has a population of eighteen thousand inhabitants.

4. Tuscany is a very fine portion of Italy and contains one million eight hundred thousand inhabitants.



Leaning Tower at Pisa.

Florence is a charming city, and at Pisa, there is a very

4. Tuscany? Florence? Pisa?

lofty tower of stone, which leans over in a remarkable manner. When a person stands upon the top, and looks down, he is rendered giddy by the fearful view. Leghorn is a place of considerable commerce, and it is often visited by American vessels.

5 The states of the Church occupy the centre of Italy, and contain two million eight hundred thousand inhabitants. They are governed by the pope, who lives in the city of Rome, and whose authority is acknowledged



St. Peter's at Rome.

by all catholics in every part of the world. He occupies a celebrated palace, called the Vatican.

5 States of the church? Rome?

6. The most remarkable edifice in Rome is the church of St. Peters. This is thirty times as large as any church in New England. This structure cost an immense sum of money, and was more than a hundred years in building.

7. Rome has many costly churches and palaces, but it is a gloomy city. On every hand, are the remains of ancient buildings in every state of decay. There are temples which seem to defy the crumbling hand of time,



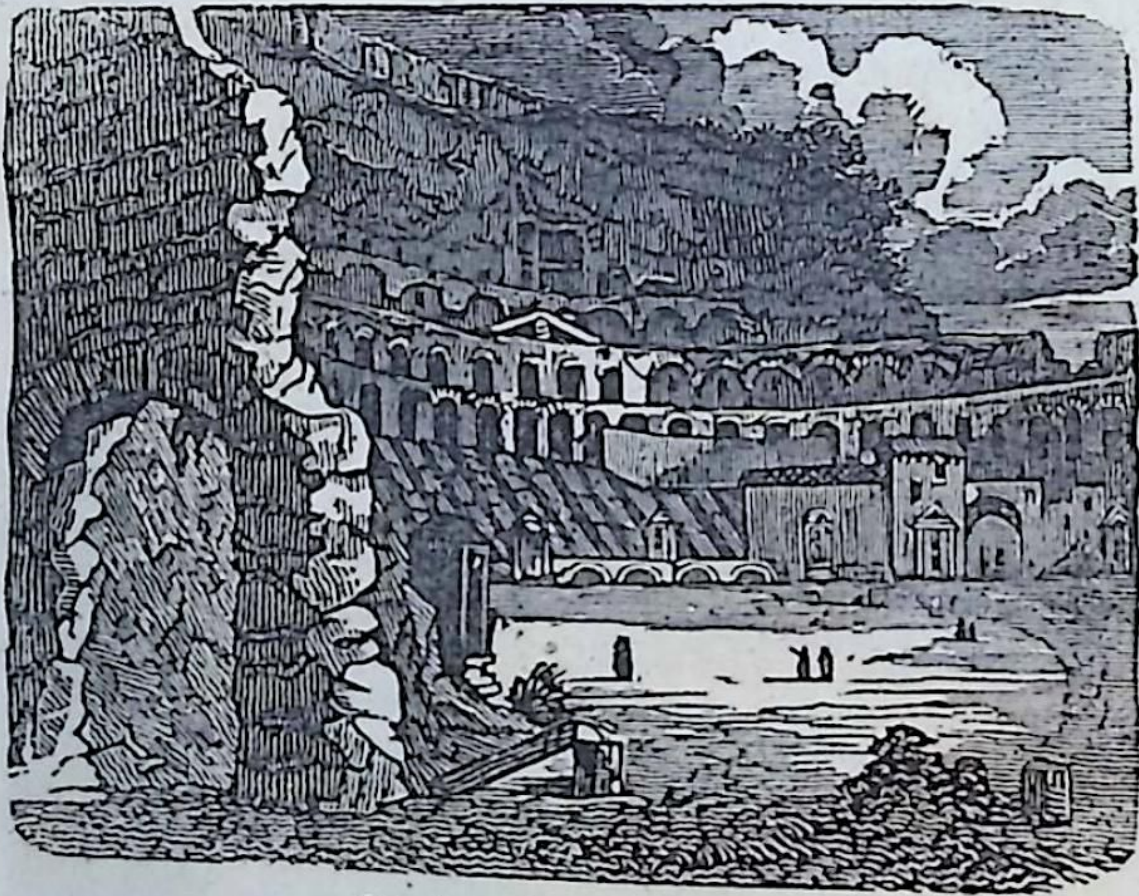
Ruins in Rome:

and others which are reduced to mere heaps of stones. There are amphitheatres, walls, aqueducts, baths and

6. St. Peters? 7. What is said of the buildings of Rome?

villas, some of them still standing, and remarkable for their beauty or magnificence, while others are broken, crushed, or tottering to their fall.

8. Among the most remarkable antiquities in Rome is the Coliseum. This is of immense extent, and was for-

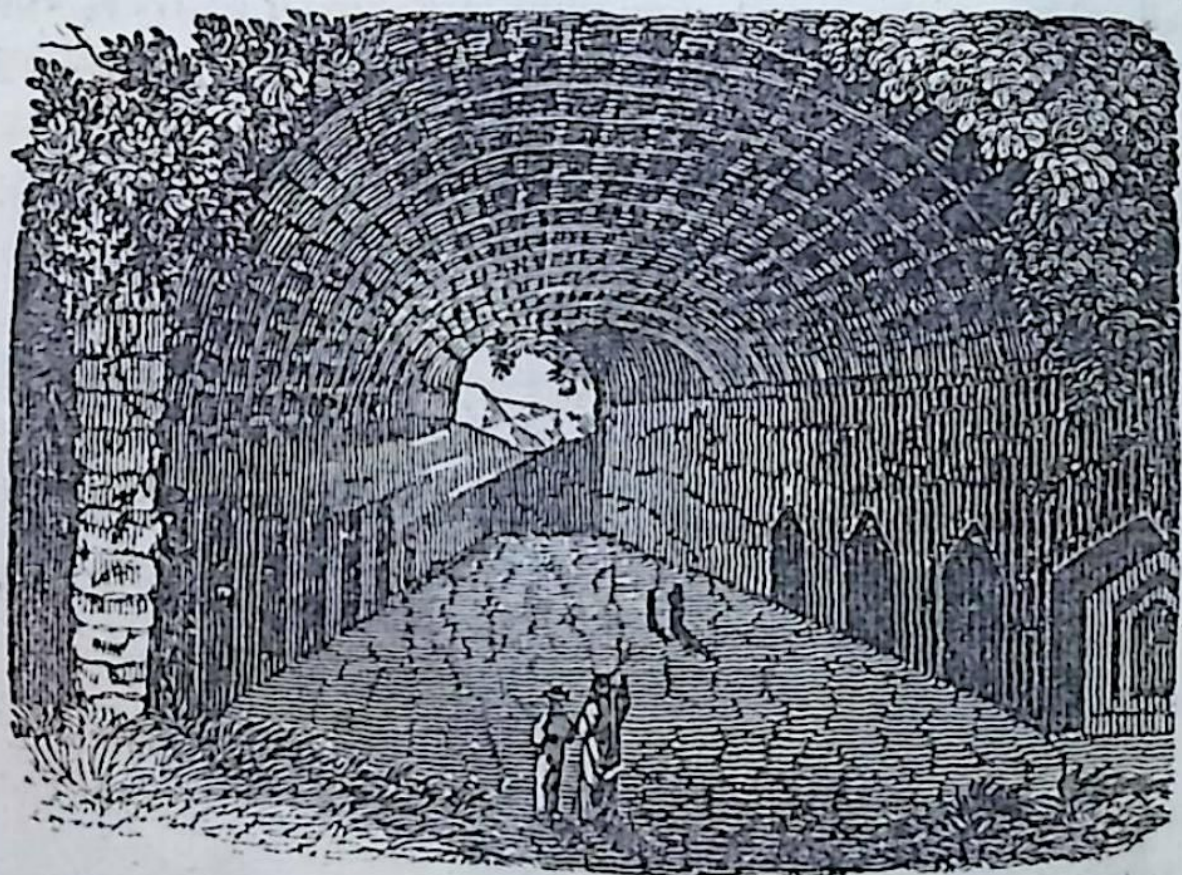


Interior of the Coliseum.

merly used for exhibiting combats between wild beasts and men called Gladiators. The ancient Romans were exceedingly fond of these exhibitions, and many thousands were often assembled at this amphitheatre to witness the spectacle.

8. What is said of the Coliseum?

9. The ancient Romans were accustomed to bathe themselves frequently, and public baths were on the most extensive scale. The people resorted to these



Ruins of Roman Baths.

every day, and spent much time in them. Some of these baths still remain in a tolerably perfect state, and are remarkable displays of the taste and luxury of those who built them.

10. These are some of the remnants of antiquity still visible in Rome. There are multitudes of others, and no person can visit them but with feelings of wonder and admiration.

9. What is said of the Baths?

11. Thus I have given you an account of Italy as it now is. I have told you of its picturesque mountains, its beautiful rivers, soft climate and its sunny skies. It was in this country of vineyards and olive groves, that Rome the most renowned city of antiquity rose, flourished and decayed; of this I shall now proceed to tell you the story.

CHAPTER IX.

Foundation of Rome. Death of Remus. Romulus made king. Division of the people. Rape of the Sabines. Death of Romulus.

1. I MUST ask the reader to go back in imagination to a period when Italy, instead of being covered with cities and cultivated fields, was overshadowed by interminable forests. It was at this time, when the country was new, and like our own western wilds only inhabited by wolves, bears, deer, and tribes of savage men, that Romulus laid the foundation of this celebrated city.

2. Who Romulus was, we cannot now determine. The ancient poets have left us many stories about him, but they are probably all fabulous. He was doubtless a man of superior intelligence, and gained great influence over the rude people among whom he lived.

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1. What was the state of Italy when Rome was founded?
 2. What is said of Romulus?

3. In the year 752 before Christ, Romulus laid the foundation of Rome. In this he was assisted by his brother Remus. Arriving on the banks of the Tiber, they disputed for some time about the place where they should plant their new city. Other differences arose between them, and it was at length determined that they should decide the dispute by observing the flight of birds.

4. They determined that he who made the most favorable observation, should have the entire control, and direct the other in all respects. In compliance with this, each took his station upon a different hill. Twelve vultures appeared to Romulus, and six to his brother; but Remus saw the birds first. Each claimed the victory. A quarrel arose, and when Remus, to show his contempt, leaped over the walls of the city, he was struck dead by his brother's hand.

5. Romulus was now eighteen years of age, and sole ruler. A few mud-built cottages, in irregular streets, formed the whole of the little settlement that was one day to be the reigning city of the world. Even the palace of the chief was merely a rude hovel. The commencement of the city was made upon Mount Palatine, and it was called Rome in honor of its founder.

6. The first measure taken by Romulus, to promote the increase of his city, was a very singular one. He

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3. In what year was Rome founded? 4. What is said of Remus?
5. The appearance of the new settlement? 6. First step of Romulus?

made it a place of refuge for thieves, runaway slaves, and men who had been driven from their native places for some crime.

7. The city was hardly raised above its foundation, when the people began to form a government. Romulus was chosen king by universal consent. He was clothed in a robe of distinction, and allowed the privilege of a guard to attend his person. Twelve lictors were also appointed to precede him, each of whom was armed with an axe tied up in a bundle of rods.

8. Romulus divided the inhabitants into three tribes. Each tribe was again divided into ten *curiæ*, or companies of an hundred men. The senate, a body intended to advise and consult with the king, was composed of one hundred of the principal citizens, distinguished for their valor, wisdom or age.

9. The religion of the colony was the earliest care of the new monarch. It is not at present known, what were the particular forms of the religion of that period. It principally consisted in a blind confidence in the opinions of certain priests, or soothsayers, who pretended to derive a knowledge of the future from the examination of the flight of birds and the entrails of beasts.

10. By the advice of the senate, Romulus now sent deputies to the Sabines, a neighboring nation, to request

7 Government? King? 8. Divisions of the people? 9. Religion? 10. Deputies to the Sabines?

their friendship and alliance. The object of this proposal was to procure wives for his subjects, and thus secure the duration of the city. His embassy was treated with contempt and insult; for the Sabines were warlike and powerful, and were unwilling to form an alliance with a colony of reformed criminals.

11. In consequence of this rejection, Romulus proclaimed, through all the adjacent villages, a great feast in honor of the god Neptune. These entertainments were usually attended with sacrifices, and exhibitions of wrestlers, gladiators and chariot races. He presumed that the Sabines would join in these sports, and bring their wives and children to see the spectacle.

12. His hopes were not unfounded. The feast-day arrived, and the Sabines were among the foremost to share its pleasures. On a given signal, a number of Roman youths with drawn swords rushed in among the strangers, and seized the most beautiful of their women, and carried them off in triumph.

13. A sanguinary war followed this outrage. It was terminated by the conduct of the Sabine women, who had now become the wives of the Romans. In the last battle that was fought, they rushed in between the combatants, and implored their husbands and fathers to desist from their anger, and enter into a treaty of peace and friendship.

14. As if by mutual consent, the warriors upon both sides threw down their weapons. A treaty was soon concluded, by which it was agreed that Tatius king of the Sabines, and Romulus, should be joint kings of Rome. Sometime after, Tatius was murdered by the Lavinians, and Romulus again became sole monarch.



Carrying off the Sabine women.

15. The senate now began to be displeased at the tyrannical conduct of their king. They determined to rid themselves of his presence. On some public occasion he suddenly disappeared. The people were told that he had been mysteriously taken up to heaven, and

14. Conclusion of the war? Tatius? 15. Death of Romulus?

were taught to worship him as a God. He was probably murdered by the senators.

CHAPTER X.

Numa Pompilius king. His character and conduct.
Tallus Hostilius. Story of the Horatii and Curiatii.
Ancus Marcius. Tarquinius Priscus. His conquests.
The Augurs. Anecdote. Assassination of Tarquin.
Servius Tullius. Horrid conduct of his daughter.

1. ON the death of Romulus, many difficulties occurred in the choice of a successor to the throne. The Sabines and the Romans were both desirous to elect one from their own numbers. Numa Pompilius, a Sabine, was at length chosen by the senate, with the general consent of the people.

2. This king was of a very peaceful and pious disposition. He built many new temples, appointed sacred feasts and offices, and by his example promoted a respect for religion, and all the virtues. To encourage agriculture, he divided among the poorer part of his subjects the lands which Romulus had gained in war. He also abolished all distinctions between the Romans and Sabines. Having reigned forty-three years in peace, he died at

1. Who was the successor of Romulus? 2. What was his character? At what age did he die, and after how long a reign?

the age of eighty. He gave orders that his remains should be enclosed in a stone coffin and buried. It was customary at the time to burn the bodies of the dead.

3. Tullus Hostilius succeeded to Numa. He was devoted to the love of arms and enterprise, and sought an early occasion to lead his forces into the field. His first war was with the Albans. The two armies met about five miles from Rome, and were both anxiously waiting for the signal of battle. Just at this time, an unexpected proposal was made by the Alban general.

4. Advancing between the armies, he offered the Romans a choice of deciding the dispute by single combat. There happened to be at this time in each army three brothers of one birth; those of the Romans were called Horatii, those of the Albans Curiatii. It was determined to leave to them the fate of the two armies. The champions met. Two of the Horatii were slain in the combat, but the survivor avenged the death of his brothers, and decided the victory for the Romans.

5. On returning home, the young conqueror was met by his sister, whom he beheld bathed in tears, and lamenting the loss of the Curiatii. To one of them she was engaged to be married, and she upbraided her brother for his death. Forgetting all the ties of nature,

3. What is said of Tullus Hostilius? 4. Relate the story of the Horatii and Curiatii? 5. The murder of the sister?

and provoked by the grief of his sister, he plunged his sword into her bosom. For this crime he was condemned to die by the senate, but he obtained a pardon by appealing to the people.

6. Hostilius died after a reign of thirty-two years. His death was said to have been by lightning, but he more probably fell by treason. His successor was Ancus Martius. This monarch achieved many victories, and greatly enlarged and beautified the city, and added to the wealth of his subjects. He left his sons under the guardianship of Tarquinius Priscus, a native of Corinth, and a man of wealth, who had been persuaded by his wife to come and settle at Rome. On his first entry into the city, it is said that an eagle stooped from the air, took off his hat, and flying for some time about his chariot replaced it upon his head. This, his wife considered as a presage that he should wear a crown.

7. Tarquin used all his arts to set aside the children of the late monarch, and to have himself placed upon the throne in their stead. He was successful, and the people unanimously elected him king. The early part of his reign was just and peaceful, but it was soon disturbed by the inroads of neighboring nations. Having defeated the Latins and forced them to beg a peace, he turned his arms against the Sabines, who had again risen and

6. What is said of Hostilius? Ancus Martius? Tarquinius Priscus? 7. What is said of Tarquin? The early part of his reign?

passed the Tiber. He attacked their army with much vigor, and completely routed them.

8. Having thus subdued his enemies, Tarquin turned his thoughts to public works, for the convenience and ornament of the city. During his reign, the augurs advanced much in the good opinion of the people, and nothing was undertaken without their advice and approbation. The wife of the king pretended to this art, but she was much excelled by Accius Nævius, the most celebrated augur ever known in Rome.

9. On one occasion the king was desirous to try his skill, and asked him whether that, which he was then thinking about, could be done. Having examined his auguries, he boldly replied that it could. "Why then," said Tarquin with a smile, "I had thoughts of cutting this whetstone with a razor." "Cut boldly," replied the augur, and the king cut it through accordingly. This was probably a trick, planned between the king and the augur, in order to deceive the people, and lead them to give confidence to the answers of the augur.

10. The sons of Ancus at length conspired against Tarquin, and procured his assassination. Two ruffians were hired, who, on pretence of seeking justice of the king, asked to speak with him in his palace, and struck him dead with the blow of an axe. They were put to death, but the sons of Ancus found safety in flight.

8. His enemies? The augurs? 9. What anecdote is related of Accius Nævius? 10. Assassination of the king?

11. Servius Tullius, the son of a slave, was now appointed king by the senate. In the beginning of his reign, he gave his two daughters in marriage to the grandsons of Tarquin. One of these, named Tullia, united with Lucius her sister's husband to secure the throne for themselves. The old king was murdered, and the daughter drove her chariot over his mangled body as it was lying in the highway. Thus perished this monarch, who was just, prosperous and moderate.

CHAPTER XI.

Tarquin the Proud. Visit of the Sibyl. Fate of her books. War with the Rutuli. Story of Lucretia. Her fate. Brutus. Expulsion of the Tarquins. Judgment of Brutus. The Veientes. Death of Brutus. Porsenna. Horatius Cocles. Clelia. Porsenna raises the siege.

1. LUCIUS Tarquinius, afterwards called the Proud, having thus raised himself to the throne by violence and murder, resolved to support himself there by the same means. His chief aim was to keep the people always occupied, in wars or in public works, that they might have no time to reflect upon his manner of gaining the crown, or to plot his overthrow.

11. Servius Tullius? His death? His daughter?

1. What is said of Tarquin?

2. During the reign of this king, a strange woman called the Sibyl appeared at Rome, offering to sell nine books, which she said were of her own composing. Tarquin refused to buy them, and the stranger departed. After burning three of the volumes she returned and demanded the same price for the remaining six. Being again refused, she went away and having burnt three more returned with the rest. These she offered for the same price, that she had before asked for the nine.

3. Tarquin was much surprised, at what seemed the singular impudence of the woman, and consulted the augurs. They blamed him much for not having purchased the nine, and commanded him to spare no expense to procure the remaining three. Tradition states that the strange woman, after delivering the volumes, and giving a special charge that their contents should be strictly attended to, vanished, and was never again seen. The books were accordingly deposited in a stone chest, and proper officers were appointed to take care of them.

4. In the reign of the preceding monarch, the foundation of the capitol had been laid; and the completion of this building had, for some years in the reign of Tarquin, occupied the attention of the people. When this, however, was finished, they began to grow eager for some new employment. To gratify their desire,

2. The Sibyl? Her strange conduct? 3. Advice of the augurs? What became of the books? 4. The capitol? War with the Rutuli?

Tarquin, on some frivolous pretence, declared war against the Rutuli, and invested Ardea their capital city, with his troops.

5. While the army was encamped before the place, Sextus the son of the king, and Collatinus, were sitting with some friends in a tent drinking wine. The conversation happened to turn upon the beauty and virtue of their wives, each one boasting of his own. At length, it was proposed, in order to decide the dispute, to depart immediately for the city, and ascertain in what manner each of them was at that time engaged. Having mounted their horses, though it was quite late in the evening, they galloped off to Rome.

6. There they found Lucretia, the wife of Collatinus, in the midst of her hand-maids, spinning, and directing their labors. In this she was unlike other ladies of her rank, who passed their time in luxury and indolence. The kind and easy reception, which she gave her husband and his friends, notwithstanding the suddenness of their visit, so charmed and delighted them, that they at once decided the dispute in her favor.

7. Sextus was only excited with impure passion, at the sight of so much beauty and innocence. Determined to gratify his desires at every hazard, he privately left the camp and visited the house of Lucretia. Here

5. Scene before the city of Ardea? Foolish proposal? 6. The result of the visit? 7. Conduct of Sextus?

he was hospitably received, because he was the friend of her husband; but he repaid his kind reception by the most cruel and dishonourable conduct.

8. Lucretia could not survive the disgrace, which had been thus cast upon her. On the next morning, she sent for her husband and her father, and told them of the insult which had been offered to them by Sextus. "For me," she said, "there is nothing now worth living for. I cannot and will not live dishonored, but if you have the hearts of men you will avenge my cause. Let posterity know, that she who has lost her virtue, has no consolation but in death."

9. As she finished these words, she drew a dagger from beneath her robe, and stabbed herself to the heart. All remained fixed in sorrow and indignation; the father and the husband burst into tears. Junius Brutus, who had always been thought an idiot, and who chanced to be present, drew the poniard from the wound of Lucretia, and swore he would be the avenger of her wrongs. "From this moment," he cried, "I will pursue Tarquin and his house with a deadly enmity, and devote my life to win and protect the freedom of my country."

10. The spectators were astonished, to hear such language from one whom they had always looked upon as a fool. But Brutus had only been playing an assumed

8. Conduct of Lucretia? 9. Death of Lucretia? Conduct of Brutus? 10. Astonishment of the spectators? Harangue in the forum? Expulsion of the Tarquins?

part, and had seized a favorable moment to appear in his real character, as the lover of liberty and the friend of justice. Ordering the dead body to be carried into the forum, he there harangued the people with great fervor and eloquence. By a decree of the senate, Tarquin and his family were forever banished from Rome, and it was made a capital crime to assist in their restoration.

11. The kingly power having been thus overthrown, Brutus, and Collatinus the husband of Lucretia, were appointed the first consuls. The new government thus formed was called a republic, but it was threatened with destruction at its very commencement. Some young men of the principal families of the state, who had been educated in all the pleasures and luxuries of the court, formed a party to restore Tarquin to power.

12. This party increased slowly and secretly; and even the sons of Brutus were induced to join them. The plot was accidentally discovered by a slave; and the father was called to sit in judgment upon his children. Nothing in nature could be more severe and heart-rending. The accused said nothing in their defence, but waited in silent despair, for the sentence which the law pronounced upon their crime. Of all the judges, Brutus alone seemed to have lost the softer feelings of humanity.

11. The first consuls? Party to restore Tarquin? 12. The sons of Brutus? Their trial? Conduct of the father?

13. With a stern and unyielding countenance, he demanded of his sons what they had to say in their defence. This question he repeated three times, when he turned to the executioner and said: "My duty is now discharged: it is for you to perform the rest." Nothing could induce him to alter his decree; neither the prayers of the people, nor the complaints of the young men, nor his own fatherly affection. The unfortunate youths were stripped, whipped with rods, and beheaded in the presence of an awe-struck multitude.

14. All Tarquin's hope now depended on foreign assistance. He prevailed upon the Veientes to assist him with a considerable army, and advanced at their head towards Rome. The consuls went forth to meet them. A battle ensued, in which Brutus and Aruns the son of Tarquin, in a furious attack upon each other, were both slain. Great numbers fell on both sides, but the Veientes were driven from the field.

15. Though conquered, Tarquin still retained hope. He applied for assistance to Porsenna king of Etruria, and succeeded in obtaining it. A large army was raised, and marched to the neighborhood of Rome. Great terror was excited in the city. The consuls marched out to give battle, and were carried off from the field covered with wounds. The Romans gave way, were

13. The sentence? 14. The Veientes? Battle? Death of Brutus?
15. Application of Tarquin to Porsenna? The battle and its issue?

driven back, and pursued to the bridge which led into the city. All now seemed lost, and all would have been lost but for the valor of a single man.

16. This man was a soldier named Horatius Cocles. He had been placed as a sentinel to defend the bridge, and opposed himself with great courage to the torrent of enemies. For some minutes he sustained the whole fury of the assault, till the bridge was cut down behind him, when he leapt into the river, and swam back to his fellow soldiers in safety.

17. Porsenna was determined to persevere in the siege, and, if necessary, reduce the city by famine. The distress of the Romans soon became almost insufferable, and was only relieved by another instance of great courage and energy. A youth named Mutius resolved to take the life of the Etrurian king. Dressed in the garb of a peasant, he entered the camp of the enemy and proceeded to the royal tent. Here he found the monarch, with a secretary by his side, reviewing and paying his troops.

18. Mistaking the latter for the king, he stabbed him to the heart, and was instantly seized. On Porsenna's demanding the cause of this action, Mutius informed him without disguise of his motive, at the same time

16. Story of Horatius Cocles? 17. Siege and distress of the Romans? Mutius? 18. His attack on Porsenna? Burning of his right hand?

thrusting his right hand into the fire which was burning on an altar before him. "Behold," said he, "how easily I scorn your vengeance. The Roman can suffer patiently, as well as dare bravely. Three hundred Romans are now in your camp, sworn to do that in which I have failed."

19. Porsenna was struck with admiration at the generous courage of the youth, and gave him a safe conduct to Rome. He then offered the citizens liberal conditions of peace, which were at once accepted. Hostages were given for its proper observance. Clelia, one of the hostages, took advantage of the negligence of her guard, and swam across the Tiber on horseback, followed by her companions, amid a shower of darts from the enemy.

20. They presented themselves before the consul, and by him were sent back to Porsenna. The king, not to be outdone in generosity, restored them to their country. Sensible of the honor of his enemies, and the baseness of the Tarquins whose cause he had espoused, he rejected their alliance, and took up his march from the city.

19. Admiration of Porsenna? Story of Clelia? 20. Course pursued by the consul? By Porsenna?

CHAPTER XII.

Coriolanus. The Volsci withdraw. Dissensions among the people. Cincinnatus. The Æqui and Volsci. Dangerous situation of the Roman army. Victory of Cincinnatus. Enemy pass under the yoke. Discontents. Speech of Dentatus. Tyranny of the decemviri. Defeat of the Romans. Death of Dentatus. Story of Virginius.

1. THE next great name in the history of Rome is that of Coriolanus, who was so proud and selfish as to prefer his own revenge to the safety of his country. He left Rome and went to her enemy the Volsci, and with an hostile army sat down before the gates of his native city. By the entreaties of his wife and mother, he was induced to withdraw his troops, and he was soon after slain in a tumult of the people.

2. There was great joy at Rome when the Volsci withdrew. In the following year, troubles arose between the people and the Senate, and Quintus Cincinnatus was appointed dictator. The deputies of the senate found him at his plough, dressed like an humble husbandman. He seemed reluctant to leave his retirement, and bidding a farewell to his wife, he only said, "I fear,

1. What is said of Coriolanus? The Volsci? 2. How did the ambassadors find Cincinnatus?

my Attilia, that for this year, our little field must remain unsown." He regretted that his services were needed, but felt bound to yield to the call of his country.



Cincinnatus at his plough.

3. His conduct in office was as honest and successful, as could have been hoped from the manner in which he received the office. He only attended to the true interests of his country, and disregarded the clamor and the flattery of both the contending parties. When by this means he had restored the city to tranquillity, he again sought the quiet and the retirement of his farm.

4. This however he was not long allowed to enjoy.

3. What is said of his conduct? Retirement? 4. The Æqui and Volsci?

The Æqui and the Volsci, though defeated and driven back, were able to renew the war, and again advanced towards the city. The consul sent to give them battle was too cautious and timid, and his army was at length driven into a defile between two mountains. No means of escape was left to them, except by fighting a way through their enemies.

5. The Æqui were resolved not to lose an opportunity like this, and strictly guarded every outlet. The Romans were completely hemmed in, and no lot seemed left for them but to be cut in pieces or perish of hunger. In this dilemma, some knights succeeded in passing through the enemy's camp, without being discovered, and carried news to Rome of the situation of the army. Nothing could exceed the general terror which this produced. The senate saw no means of relief, except in again calling forth the services of Cincinnatus.

6. The messengers of the senate found him as before in the field. He was astonished at the authority which was given him, and still more when he saw the whole senate leaving the city to meet him. His love of simplicity and humble honesty still was untouched, and when called upon to select his master of horse, he fixed his choice upon a poor neighbor named Tarquilius, a sentinel in the army.

5. Situation of the Roman army? Consternation at Rome? Means of relief? 6. Cincinnatus?

7. On entering the city, the dictator gave orders that all capable of bearing arms should assemble before sunset in the Campus Martius, with arms and provisions. Commencing his march immediately, he came within view of the enemy before daylight. On approaching, he commanded his soldiers to raise a loud shout, that the troops in the defile might learn that relief was at hand.

8. The Æqui were quite astonished, to find themselves the besieged instead of besiegers. But being now attacked on both sides, they threw down their arms and begged for peace. Cincinnatus refused to grant peace, except on condition that the whole army should pass under the yoke.

9. This yoke was formed of two spears set upright with another crossing them on the top. Under this the conquered army was compelled to march, in token of their submission. Their camp was plundered by the Romans of all that was valuable, and their leaders and generals were retained prisoners, to grace the triumph of the conquerors. Cincinnatus then returned to Rome, and resigned his office after having held it but fourteen days. He refused to share in any of the spoils of victory, and once more retired to the simple life of the husbandman.

7. Assembling of the troops? Their march? 8. Conditions of peace to the Æqui? 9. Passing under the yoke? Resignation of Cincinnatus?

10. Discontents again followed the restoration of peace. Tumults arose among the people, who claimed certain privileges which the senate refused to grant. The plebeians complained that they did not receive their rights, and an old soldier named Dentatus was among the most eager to excite them to a contest.

11. "For forty years," said he, with an openness of self-praise, only to be excused by his age and his services, "I have served my country in the wars. I have fought one hundred and twenty battles, in which, by my single arm, I have not only slain many enemies, but have saved many friends. Three and twenty crowns have been placed, by my countrymen, on a head which has grown gray in their service; and I have won trophies of spears, trappings, bracelets and chains.

12. "My body bears forty wounds, in front, each telling of my patriotism. These are my honors; what other have been my rewards? The land, which I have won from the enemy, has been distributed to enrich those who were already wealthy. My lot has been poverty and contempt."

13. The words of Dentatus excited much sympathy among the people. They cried aloud for the passage of a law, which should reward such services as they deserved. A tumult ensued. The young patricians rush-

10 Discontents of the people? Dentatus? 11. 12. His address?
13 Tumults? Conduct of the young patricians?

ed into the crowd, broke the balloting boxes, and dispersed the multitude. For this they were afterwards fined by the tribunes, but the passage of the desired law was prevented.

14. The city had now been erected about three hundred years, and had seen kings and consuls passing away, and lasting contentions still remaining between the senate and the people. Magistrates were overbearing and arbitrary; subjects were proud and factious. It was at length agreed, that ambassadors should be sent to Athens and other cities, to collect and bring home a body of laws, that should be adapted to the wants of the Roman people.

15. On the return of this embassy, the laws they had collected were put into the hands of ten men called decemvirs, appointed to select and arrange them. The power of these men was made equal to that of the kings and consuls. For a year they attended industriously to business, and, having completed their work, they were expected to retire from office. Artfully retaining their power for a short time longer, they finally determined to establish themselves in an absolute tyranny.

16. The citizens were now in a state of complete and abject slavery. Their masters ruled them with despotic

14. To what year of the city has our history arrived? What is said of the magistrates? The people? Embassies to foreign cities?

15. The Decemviri? Their tyranny? 16. The condition of the people? Enemies?

country. All was in vain. The tyrant refused to listen to him, and ordered the pretended master to take possession of his slave.

23. The throng, which surrounded the tribunal of Appius, were soon dispersed, and Virginia was seized by the rude hands of the lictors. Seeing that all was lost, the father entreated Appius to allow him to take a last farewell, of one whom he had so long loved and regarded as a child. With this request, the decemvir could not but comply. Virginius took his breathless daughter in his arms, and for a few moments gazed in agony upon her beautiful face.

24. Then suddenly snatching at a knife, which lay in a stall by the forum, he exclaimed, "My dearest, my lost child, this only can preserve thine innocence." With these words he plunged the weapon into her bosom, and, raising it in the air, swore to devote Appius to death.

25. With the bloody knife in his hand, he rushed wildly through the streets of the city, calling upon the people to strike for liberty, and to destroy their tyrants. Thence, he pursued his way to the camp, calling upon his fellow soldiers to rise and recover the freedom, of which the decemvirs had robbed them.

26. The army received his proposal with shouts of approbation. They deserted their generals, and repaired again to the mountain to which they had retired

about forty years before. The senate immediately despatched messengers, to offer them the restoration of their old form of government. To this they joyfully acceded, and returned in peace to the camp and the city. Of the decemvirs eight went into voluntary exile, and Appius died in prison by his own hands. This event happened in the year 449 B. C.

CHAPTER XIII.

Æqui and Volsci. Demands of the people. Military tribunes. Censors. Plot of Spurius Mælius. Siege of Veii. Anecdote. Camillus. Descent of the Gauls. Their overthrow. Manlius.

1. DISPUTES still continued between the senate and the people; and though the Æqui and Volsci, old enemies of the city, approached to its very walls, the tribunes would not permit the levy of troops. They were afterwards induced to take the field, and the hostile armies were completely routed.

2. The people now demanded that the plebeians should be admitted to the consulship, as well as the patricians. They also called for the abolition of the law, which forbade the intermarriage of these two classes

1. What is said of the enemies of the city? 2. Demands of the people? Military tribunes? The Censor?

he entreated the gods to make his country repent the wrongs she had heaped upon him. He sought refuge in the little town of Ardea.

8. Soon after, a body of fierce and barbarous Gauls made a descent upon the city. Their leader Brennus, having gained a splendid victory in a most bloody and destructive battle, marched directly with all his forces to the city. He found the gates open, and no signs of intended defence. Thinking this might be a stratagem to decoy them into a dangerous position, he advanced with great caution.

9. Marching into the forum, he beheld all the ancient senators sitting in their places, silent, unmoved, and undaunted. The splendid habits and venerable appearance of these old men awed the enemy into reverence; until one of them put forth his hand to stroke the beard of Papirius. The noble Roman could not suffer this insult, and lifting his ivory sceptre struck the savage to the ground. This was the signal of a general slaughter. Papirius fell first, and all the rest shared his fate.

10. The last hope of Rome now depended upon the strength of the capitol. Without the walls of that fortress, every thing was distress and misery. Brennus first summoned it to surrender, then resolved to besiege it with his army. The Romans repelled his assaults

8. Descent of the Gauls? Brennus? 9. Scene in the forum.

10. The last hope of Rome? Trick of the besieged?

with the activity and courage of despair. Though actually in great want, they threw loaves of bread into the camp of the enemy, to convince them that they were well supplied with food, and that it was impossible to reduce them by famine.

11. Brennus had begun to despair of this attempt, when one of his soldiers, by accident, discovered footsteps leading up to the rock. By following these they thought the capitol might be surprised. A chosen body of men was ordered upon this service, and at midnight they endeavored to accomplish it. They had nearly reached the wall, and the sentinel was asleep on his post. Not a sound was heard. The garrison was saved only by the gabbling of a flock of geese, which were kept for sacred purposes in the temple of Juno.

12. This roused the sleeping soldiers, and Manlius, a brave patrician, rushed forward to the rampart, and threw two of the enemy from its height. Others came to his assistance, and the walls were soon cleared of the enemy.

13. The hopes of the Gauls now began to decline, and Brennus was desirous of an honorable chance to withdraw from the siege. Proposals of peace were made on both sides, and finally the Gauls agreed to

11. Attempt to surprise the capitol? How prevented? 12. The issue of this attack? 13. Hopes of the Gauls? Anecdote of Brennus?

receive a thousand pounds weight of gold, and retire from the city. To this the Romans acceded. In weighing the gold, however, they complained of an attempt to defraud them. On this Brennus, with an insulting air, threw his belt and sword into the scale, exclaiming that it was the only lot of the conquered to obey and suffer.

14. Just at this moment, Camillus appeared on the spot, at the head of a large army. He ordered the gold to be carried back to the capitol. "It is our custom," said he, "to ransom, not with gold, but with iron. I am dictator of Rome, and will purchase peace by my sword." The Romans were animated at once by a new spirit; a battle was fought, and the Gauls were entirely overthrown.

15. For his service in saving the capitol, Manlius was loaded with the gratitude of the people; they built him a house near the scene of his valor, and granted him a public fund for his support. He was not contented with the honors thus bestowed upon him, but with the selfishness of a little mind aspired to the sovereign power. Surrounded by a band of profligate followers, he filled the city with clamors and sedition; till at length his conduct assumed a most treasonable aspect, and he was summoned to appear and answer for his life.

16. The place appointed for his trial was in the neigh-

14. Camillus? 15. Manlius? His seditious conduct? 16. Trial and condemnation?

borhood of the capitol. When he was accused of treason and sedition, he pointed to the citadel he had preserved, and exclaimed, "Behold the monument of my love of country!" The multitude refused to condemn him, while in sight of the capitol; but when he was removed to the Peteline grove, he was sentenced to be thrown from the Tarpeian rock.

17 Shortly after this event, an occurrence is said to have taken place, which shows how superstitious or credulous mankind may sometimes become. A frightful gulf opened in the forum. The augurs were consulted, and declared that it would never close, till Rome had cast into it her most precious possession. On hearing this, Marcus Curtius, a noble youth, declaring that there was nothing more precious than valor and patriotism, armed himself, mounted his horse, and leaped boldly into the midst of the gulf. Historians of Rome say that the gulf immediately closed, and that Curtius was never afterwards seen.

17. Gulf in the forum? Fate of Curtius?

CHAPTER XIV.

The Samnites. War with the Latins. Execution of Titus Manlius. Self-sacrifice of Decius. Defeat of the Latins. Stratagem of Pontius. Fabius Maximus. King Pyrrhus. Great battle. Fabricius. Pyrrhus leaves Italy.

1. HAVING conquered most of the neighboring countries, the Romans began to think of extending the power of their arms. In the year 343 B C. they sent an army against the Samnites, a tribe about an hundred miles distant, descended from the ancient Sabines, and inhabiting that part of Italy, which is now comprised in the modern kingdom of Naples.

2. The Samnites were a very brave people, and they tried the courage even of the war-worn soldiers of Rome. Great resolution and valor were displayed upon both sides; at length the Samnites were obliged to yield. Thirty thousand of them are said to have been slain on the field of battle. These numbers, however, are probably much exaggerated. Tradition mistakes and deceives, and the mists of time, like the mists of nature, seem to magnify the objects which they surround.

1. When was an army sent against the Samnites? What part of Italy did they inhabit? 2. What is said of the Samnites? Their defeat? Tradition?

3. A war with the Latins rapidly succeeded; indeed, the whole of Roman history is stained with blood. In their arms, costume and language, the two contending nations so much resembled each other, that it was necessary to resort to the most exact discipline. Orders were given by the consul Manlius, that no soldier should on any account leave the ranks, on pain of death. These orders being given, both armies were drawn out in order of battle, when one of the enemy advanced from the ranks, and challenged any Roman to single combat.

4. For awhile all was silent. At length Titus Manlius, son of the consul, and a brave, high-spirited youth, dared to disobey the commands of his father, and stepped forth to accept the challenge. The combat which followed was a severe one; but victory at length declared itself for the Roman. Taking the armor from the dead body of his adversary, the youth returned in triumph to the camp. There he was met with the shouts and cheers of his fellow soldiers. But the father sternly ordered him to be led forth before the army, and thus addressed him with tears in his eyes.

5. "Titus Manlius, you have violated the command of the consul, and have broken the discipline of the camp. I cannot hesitate between love for Rome, and affection for my child. And you, my son, will not refuse

4. Who accepted the challenge? What was the issue of the combat? 5. The address of the consul?

to die, when your death is to be of service to your country. Lictor, bind him, and let his death be a warning to Romans, not to violate the command of their consul."

6. The whole army was struck with terror. The old soldiers, who had looked with admiration on the exploit of their champion, shed tears at the harsh and unnatural conduct of the father. Youth, who had seen his valor with delight and emulation, burned with anger at what seemed the cruelty of a fiend, rather than the discipline of a soldier. All was confusion and sorrow and indignation. And when the axe fell on the head of the devoted boy, an involuntary shudder went through the crowd, and mingled groans and curses bore dark testimony against the consul. The body of the dead was buried with the honors of war.

7. Meanwhile the battle was begun with great fury and the forces were so equally matched, that it was for a long time doubtful which would win the victory. Superstition this day called for another sacrifice. The augurs declared that the commander of that part of the Roman army, which should fall into disorder, must devote himself to death for his country.

8. The left wing of the Roman army faltered and gave way. Its commander, Decius, resolved to offer himself as a sacrifice, in compliance with the answer of

6. What is said of this cruel sentence? 7. The battle? Superstition? Auguries? 8. The sacrifice of Decius?

the augurs. Clothing himself in a long robe, covering his head, and with his arms stretched forward, standing upon a javelin, he devoted himself to the gods for the safety of Rome.

9. Then mounting his horse he galloped furiously into the very middle of the enemy, scattering death wherever he passed. After performing prodigies of valor, and carrying dismay to the very heart of the foe, he fell gloriously, covered with wounds. A total rout ensued. The Latins were forced to beg peace on very hard conditions, and two years afterwards were brought into complete submission to the Roman power. This was in the year 340 B. C.

10. Eight years afterwards, the Roman arms met with a signal disgrace. The senate had refused to grant peace to the Samnites, and Pontius the general of this people had determined to gain it by stratagem. He led his army into a defile called Claudium, and took possession of all the roads which led to it. Then he sent forward ten of his men in the dress of shepherds, with directions to throw themselves in the way of the Romans.

11. The Roman consul met them, and supposing them really to be what they appeared, inquired concerning the route of the Samnite army. The shepherds told him, with seeming innocence, that they did not know much

9. His death? Route of the Latins? In what year did this take place? 10. Pontius? Defile of Claudium? Stratagem of Pontius? 11. The meeting of the shepherds with the consul?

about it, but believed they had gone to besiege Luceria, a town in Apulia. Suspecting no trick, the Roman consul hurried forward with his army to relieve the besieged city; passing by the shortest road, which lay through the mountain defiles.

12. The first notice of his danger was a shout from the enemy. He then found his army completely surrounded, and in the power of the Samnites. Pontius ordered the prisoners to be stripped of their garments, and made to pass under the yoke. It was then agreed that the Romans should leave the territory of the Samnites altogether, and observe for the future the terms of their ancient confederacy.

13. The Romans were covered with shame and anguish by this ignominious defeat, and returned home, disarmed, almost naked, and burning with a desire for revenge. The whole city went into mourning, and grief and resentment glowed in every heart.

14. This defeat however was of no permanent importance. The war was carried on as usual for many years; the power of the Romans gathering new increase every day, while that of their enemies declined. They obtained repeated triumphs under Papirius Cursor, and Fabius Maximus reaped glory in conquering the Samnites.

15. Being at length driven to extremities, they deter-

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13. Shame of the Romans? 14. Importance of this defeat?
15. Pyrrhus? Number of his army? Tempests?

mined to apply for assistance to Pyrrhus, a successor of Alexander the Great in the kingdom of Epirus. He was a man of great courage, power and ambition, and embarked with much zeal in the enterprise. Sending before him an army of about three thousand men, he soon put to sea himself, with three thousand horse, twenty thousand foot and twenty elephants. But a small part of this force arrived with him in Italy. Many of his ships were dispersed by tempests, and some of them were entirely destroyed.

16. On reaching Tarentum, he commenced an immediate reform, in the manners of the people he had come to succor. He changed the amusements of peace and luxury, into stern preparations for war. The Romans sent a powerful force to oppose his progress. Pyrrhus advanced to meet them, and both armies pitched their tents in sight of each other, on opposite banks of the river Liris.

17. Pyrrhus was a good soldier, skilful in selecting the position of his own camp, and in observing that of his enemy. When walking along the banks of the river, he was much struck with the Roman method of encampment, and observed that "these barbarians were by no means barbarous." The consul Lævinus was a man of

16. His first measure on reaching Tarentum? Meeting of the two armies? 17. What is said of Pyrrhus and the Roman encampment?

rash and impetuous disposition, and resolved to give instant battle.

18. His forces were accordingly marched to a part of the river which could be forded, and commenced its passage. Pyrrhus was soon on the spot, and hoped to cut off their cavalry before they could be reinforced by the foot. The Roman legions, however, having effected their passage with much difficulty, the engagement became general. Victory was for a long time doubtful.

19. Pyrrhus turned the fate of the battle by sending forward his elephants. The Romans had never before seen animals of such strength and magnitude. They were struck with dismay at the sight of such immense creatures, raging through their ranks, trampling on their horses and riders, and at the sight of the castles on their back filled with armed men. This movement decided the fortunes of the day. A dreadful slaughter ensued. Pyrrhus obtained a great victory, but with the loss of an immense number of his own soldiers.

20. Pyrrhus was not disposed to use harsh measures with the conquered, but desired to treat with them upon honorable terms. He sent his friend Cineas, a celebrated orator, to arrange a peace with them. Cineas was a man of much cunning and persuasion, but he found the Romans were not to be moved either by his artifice or

18. Commencement of the battle? 19. The issue? 20. Measures pursued by Pyrrhus? Cineas? His opinion of the Romans?

eloquence. To him the senate appeared an assembly of demi-gods, and the city a temple for their residence.

21. Ambassadors were soon after sent from Rome, to treat concerning the exchange of prisoners. At the head of this embassy was Fabricius, an aged senator, venerable for his contentment in poverty, and his unsullied integrity. Pyrrhus received him with great kindness, and to try how far he was deserving of his fame, tried to corrupt his honesty by presents and promises. All his efforts were vain. The old man was not to be bribed or intimidated, and the king nobly released all the prisoners, on the word of Fabricius that they should be restored, if the senate continued the war.

22. About the year 280 B. C. the war against Pyrrhus was renewed, in the consulship of Sulpicius and Decius. The terror, which was at first excited by the elephants, had begun to subside, and the two armies met on more equal terms. The Grecians were again the conquerors. Pressed upon all sides, trampled under foot by the elephants, the Roman army gave way, and were entirely routed with the loss of six thousand men. The enemy lost about four thousand, and Pyrrhus the conqueror exclaimed that one more such victory would be his ruin.

23. This battle closed the campaign, and both armies

21. Ambassadors from Rome? Fabricius? Prisoners? 22. In what year was the war with Pyrrhus renewed? Issue of the battle? Loss of the Romans? Of Pyrrhus? 23. Anecdote of Fabricius?

retired into winter quarters. In the following spring they again took the field. As the two armies approached each other, the physician of the king sent a letter to Fabricius, in which for a certain reward he offered to remove his master by poison, and thus put an end to the war. The noble Roman rejected the proposal with disdain, and despatched a messenger to Pyrrhus to inform him that there was a traitor in his camp, and lay open the offer that had been made to him.

24. Pyrrhus received the message with astonishment and indignation. "Admirable Fabricius," he exclaimed, "it would be as easy to turn the sun from his path, as to turn thee from thine integrity." After making inquiry among his servants, he became convinced of his physician's treachery, and ordered him to be executed. To make a return for Roman generosity, he at once released all his prisoners.

25. Two years afterwards, having increased the number of his soldiers, Pyrrhus separated his force into two divisions, and marched at the head of one of them to attack the enemy. A severe engagement followed. The Romans had learned to turn the elephants to the destruction of their masters. They made large balls composed of flax and iron, and setting fire to them sent

24. Exclamation of Pyrrhus? His return of Roman generosity.
25. Describe the battle in which Pyrrhus was defeated with great loss.

them among these animals as they approached their ranks. Made furious by the flames, the elephants turned back, raging through their own army, crushing the soldiers in their path, and spreading terror and destruction on every side.

26. The loss of the Grecians was immense; and their king resolved to leave a country where he found only faithless friends and desperate enemies. He embarked with the shattered remnants of his army, and returned to his native kingdom. A small garrison was left in Tarentum, to save the appearance of an entire defeat.

27. Rome had now become a very large, powerful and famous city. In her previous history, which comprises the period of her stern and simple virtues, we have seen numerous instances of heroic, though savage daring, and of noble though misguided self-sacrifice. We are now coming to an era of great interest in her history; the First Punic War. At the period 264 B. C. when this war commenced, the population of Rome was about two hundred and ninety thousand. In the year 266 B. C. silver money was first coined at Rome.

26. His departure from Italy? 27. What is said of the previous history of Rome? Her population? Coining of silver money?

CHAPTER XV.

*Troubles in Sicily. Carthage. First Punic War.
Regulus Triumph of the Romans. Regulus in Africa
Xantippus. Fate of Regulus. End of the war.*

1. HAVING subdued all the neighboring nations, the Romans began to think of foreign conquest. At that period, the Carthaginians were in possession of the greatest part of Sicily, and were waiting for a favorable moment to become masters of the whole island. Hiero, king of Syracuse, one of the unsubdued Sicilian states, called upon the Carthaginians for assistance against the Mamertines. This tribe in turn sought aid from the Romans; and from this incident sprung the first war between Carthage and Rome. This, which is called the First Punic War, commenced in the year 264 B. C.

2. Carthage was a city on the coast of Africa, founded by a colony of Phœnicians, about one hundred and thirty-seven years before the foundation of Rome. It was at this time a city of extensive commerce and great wealth. Her fleet was large and very powerful. She was mistress of the sea, while Rome had nothing that deserved the name of a naval force.

1. What is said of foreign conquest? Hiero? When did the first war commence between Carthage and Rome? 2. What is said of Carthage? Her fleet?

3. The Romans resolved to be on equal terms with their enemy, and at once applied themselves to build and fit out a fleet. They found a model for their ships in a Carthaginian vessel, that happened to be cast ashore in a tempest. The consul Duilius put to sea with this newly constructed fleet, and by his skill and valor gained the first naval victory. He destroyed fifty ships of the enemy, and thus deprived them of their before undisputed sovereignty of the sea.

4. To conquer Sicily, however, it was necessary to carry the war into Africa, and a fleet of three hundred ships was despatched for that purpose, under the command of Regulus and Manlius. Regulus was of a stern, severe and frugal disposition, a brave soldier, well skilled and experienced in the arts of war. All his private affections and passions were blended with an inextinguishable love of country.

5. The combined fleet of the two generals was the largest, that had ever sailed from an Italian port. Their forces amounted to one hundred and forty thousand men. The fleet of the enemy was equally large, and was manned by better sailors. While they fought at a distance, the Carthaginians seemed successful, but when the ships grappled, and the soldiers met foot to foot, and

3. Building of the Roman fleet? Their victory? 4. Fleet? Character of Regulus? 5. Roman fleet and forces? Issue of the engagement?

arm to arm, Roman valor and energy triumphed. The victory was complete.

6. This battle was followed by an immediate descent upon the coast of Africa, when Manlius was recalled, and Regulus was ordered to remain and prosecute the



Regulus defeats the Carthaginians.

war. Another victory was soon won by the Romans and eighty of the enemy's towns submitted to their arms. In this extremity, the Carthaginians determined to have recourse to foreign assistance. They sent to Lacedæmon, a famous town of Greece, and offered the command

6. Descent upon Africa? Course of the Carthaginians? Xantippus?

of their army to Xantippus, an experienced and veteran general. He accepted the office, requiring ready obedience to his orders, and promising them a speedy victory.

7. The city soon began to recover its former spirits, and confidence. Xantippus took the field with an army secure of victory, and eager for revenge. The battle was skilfully planned, and bravely won. A large part of the Roman army was slain, and Regulus himself was taken prisoner. Other misfortunes soon followed. The principal town in Sicily was taken by the Carthaginian general Carthalo. The Roman fleet perished in a storm, and a new one was built only to share the same fate.

8. The Carthaginians now entertained the hope of arranging a peace, on terms more favorable than those offered by Regulus. They thought that the imprisoned general would himself advise a peace, which was to shorten the term of his captivity. He was accordingly sent with the embassy to Rome, on his promise to return, in case of a failure in the object of their mission.

9. When the ambassadors approached Rome, and it was known they were attended by the old general, crowds went forth from the city to meet them. Regulus received their shouts of joy and welcome in a stern

7. Spirit of the city? Battle? What followed? 8. What is said of peace? Regulus? 9. Conduct of Regulus?

sadness He refused to enter the gates, saying that he was now the slave of Carthage, and unfit to tread the soil of freedom, much less to partake of the honors which his countrymen wished to bestow on him.

10. The senate, as usual, gave audience to the embassy without the walls of the city. They were weary of a war, which had already been protracted through eight years, and were willing to concede to any reasonable terms. Regulus laid open the objects of the mission, and the proposals of the Carthaginians. The senate discussed them, and gave their opinions on them. It only remained for Regulus to speak, and he spoke freely and eloquently in favor of continuing the war.

11. Imprisonment had done nothing to break his heroic character, or to blunt the delicacy of that spirit which would scorn to council the dishonor of his country. He felt that his own existence was but as a shadow, when compared with the glory of Rome; he spurned the proposal which would sully her dignity, though it was to relieve him from the pains of imprisonment, or the horrors of a violent death.

12. The senate admired the patriotism and self-devotion of their old general, and refused to consent to a measure which would end in his ruin. It was in vain, however, that they interfered with entreaties and

10. Views of the senate? Regulus? 11. What is said of Regulus? 12. His resolution?

prayers. He determined to return to his bonds, and refused to see his wife and children, lest the natural affection of a husband and a father, should turn him from his fixed resolution. Taking leave of the senate and his friends, he departed with the ambassadors for Carthage.

13. There a most cruel fate awaited him. The Carthaginians were enraged beyond measure, when they heard of the counsel which Regulus had given to his countrymen. He was put to death amid the most severe and lingering agonies; racked with all the instruments of torture, which the malice and ingenuity of his enemies could invent.

14. Arms were again taken up on both sides, with more than former animosity. The obstinate courage of the Romans at length triumphed. They won a series of victories, and after a continued war of four and twenty years, reduced Carthage to accept the terms they saw fit to dictate. Thus ended the First Punic War, in the year 240 B. C.

13. His death? 14 End of the war?

CHAPTER XVI

Peace and its arts. War with Illyria. The Gauls. Second Punic War. Siege of Saguntum. Character of Hannibal. He crosses the Alps. Defeat of Scipio. Battles. Fabius Maximus. His successors. Battle of Cannæ. Capua. Syracuse. Marcellus. Scipio carries the war into Africa. Hannibal is recalled. His defeat. Peace.

1. A PERIOD of profound quiet followed, and the Romans turned their attention to the arts of peace. They now began to cultivate a fondness for poetry, which in all nations is the first art that rises and the first that decays. But they did not neglect preparations for war; improving all intervals of repose, only to gather fresh vigor for action.

2. After a long continuance of peace, they first tried their martial strength on the Illyrians, and afterwards on the Gauls. But they soon found a more formidable enemy in the Carthaginians, who had been again roused to contend with them in arms. The leader of their army was Hannibal, who when very young had been brought before the altar by his father, and commanded to swear perpetual enmity to the Romans. The boy

1. What is said of the peace which followed? 2. War with the Gauls and Illyrians? The Carthaginians? Hannibal?

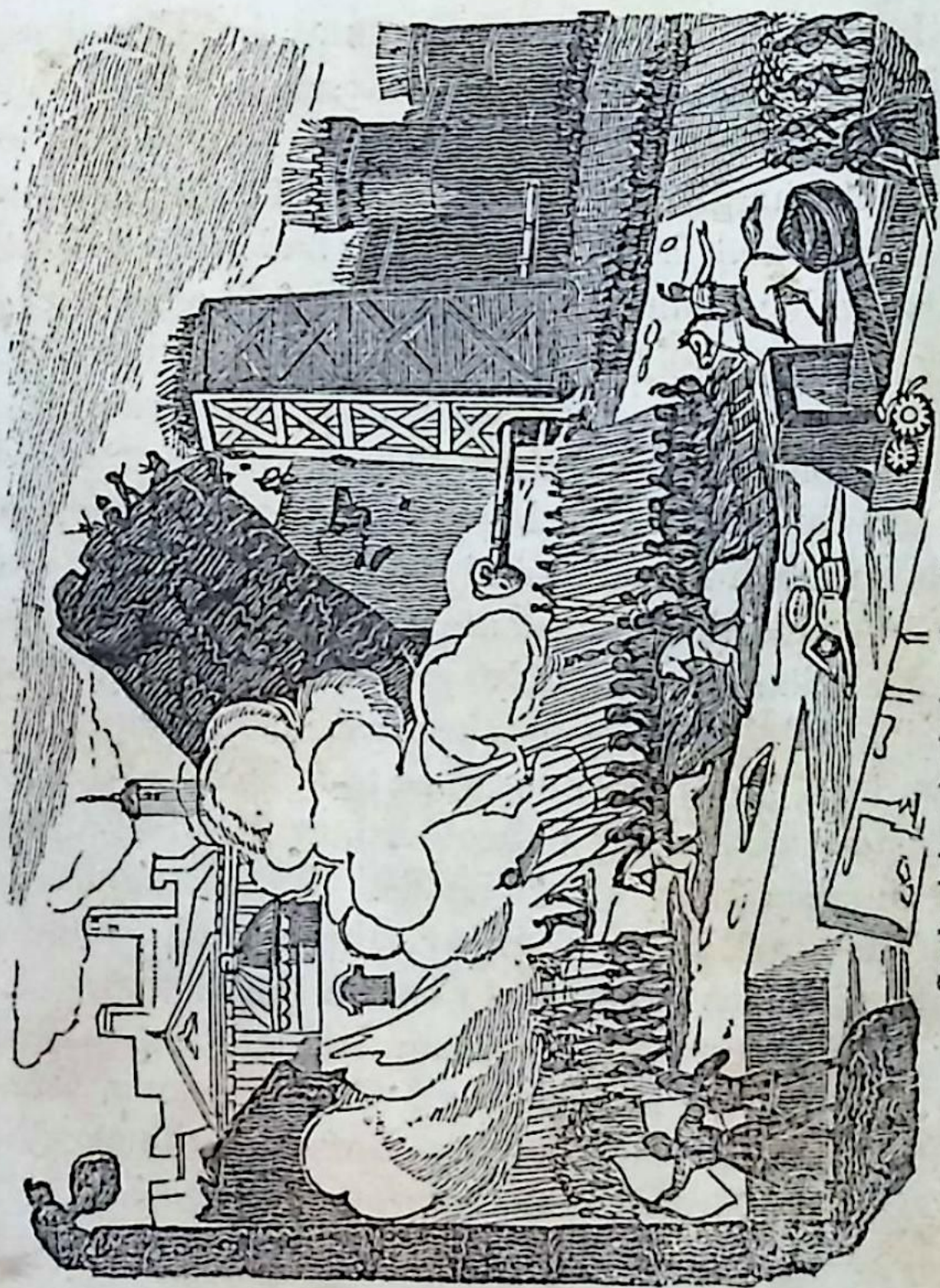
laid his hand upon the altar, and kneeling, took an oath which he never forgot.

3. It was at the siege of Saguntum, that Hannibal first opposed his military skill to the Romans. The valor of both besiegers and besieged partook of that lofty character, which might be supposed to exist only in the battles of romance and fable. Hannibal had offered terms to the Saguntines, but these were of such a nature, that, rather than comply with them, many of the citizens gathered their goods together, and, having set them on fire, cast themselves into the flames.

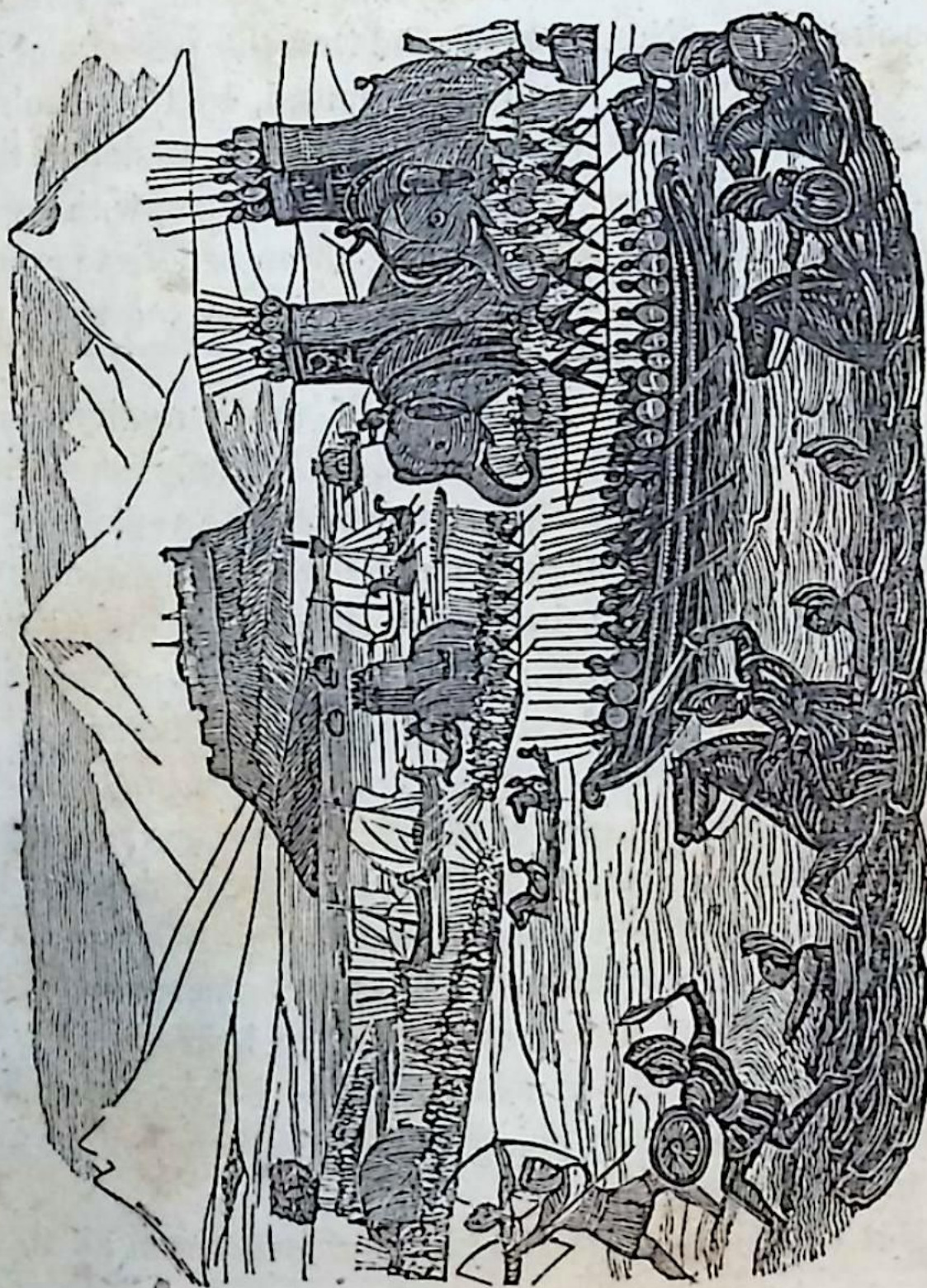
4. At this moment it happened that a tower, which had been much battered and shaken, fell to the ground. A body of Carthaginians entered valiantly at the breach, and Hannibal immediately gave orders for a general assault. The place was taken without difficulty. The Saguntines, however, continued to fight with the courage of despair, and many collected their families, and burnt their houses over their heads. Notwithstanding the great destruction of property, the wealth of the conquered city was sufficient to enrich the victors.

5. The capture of Saguntum was rather the signal for war between the Romans and Carthaginians, than the actual commencement of it. But after the sacking of this city, the former made vigorous preparations to take

3. Siege of Saguntum? 4. Spoils of the city? 5. Commencement of the war? Passage of the Rhone?



Carthaginians besieging the city of Saguntum



Hannibal crossing the Rhone

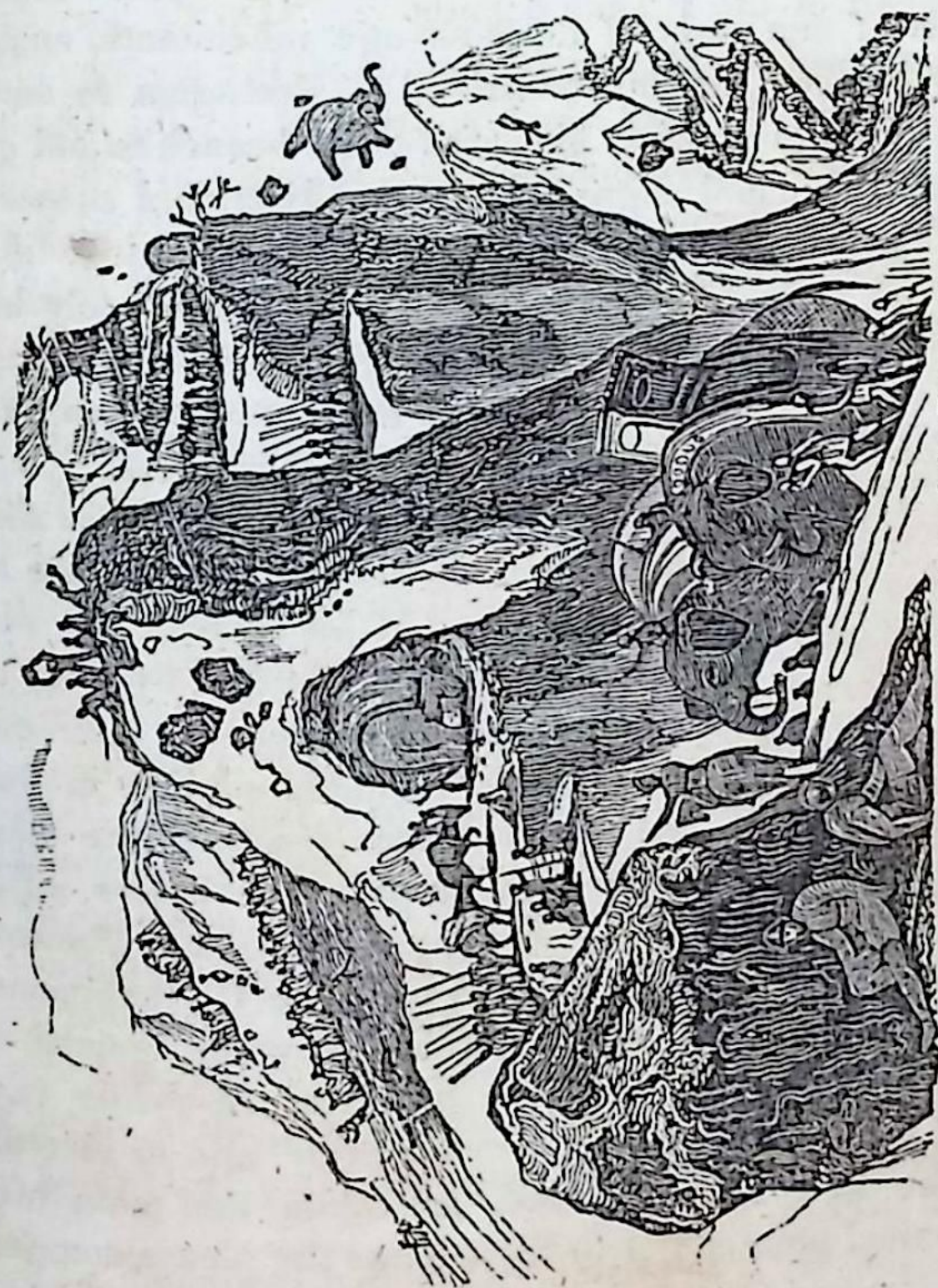
the field, and Hannibal began to conduct his army into the heart of the Roman dominions. Having arrived on the banks of the Rhone, he found that the passage of this river would be very bravely disputed, by the Gauls on the east side, who assembled in multitudes to defend their bank. He, therefore, despatched an officer, with a good part of the army, by night, giving them orders to go to a considerable distance up the river, then cross it, and endeavor to get behind the enemy.

6. Hannibal received notice of their motions, and when he perceived that they had accomplished their object, he began to pass the river with the remainder of his army. The Gauls, on perceiving their approach, set up dreadful howlings; but when they heard the shouts of the army behind them, and saw their tents on fire, after a short resistance they fled to their villages.

7. In his celebrated passage over the Alps, Hannibal met with much resistance from the barbarous mountaineers. He had to pass through confined openings in the mountains, over which were placed troops of barbarians, who showered down upon his army masses of rock, which crushed vast numbers. His road wound also by a fearful precipice, down which the elephants, which had become unruly, fell, carrying with them every thing that stood in their way.

8. But the resolution of Hannibal overcame all these

6. The Gauls? 7. Passage of the Alps? 8. Conduct of the barbarians?



Hannibal attacked by the barbarians of the Frozen Alps.

difficulties; and his vigorous measures, with respect to the barbarians, terrified them into submission. After a defeat of one party of these savage inhabitants, another body of them, having contrived a stratagem to entrap him, came to receive him with olive branches and garlands, the usual signs of peace. Hannibal suspected the sincerity of their professions, but fearing, if he rejected their offers, that he should immediately have them for open enemies, he received them kindly. Upon this, they brought him hostages and cattle, and appeared to place entire confidence in the Carthaginians.

9. Hannibal was so far imposed upon by these faithless allies, that he made them his guides, and for two days they marched at the head of his army. But when they had got into a hollow way, overlooked by steep and craggy rocks, the traitors gave the signal to their companions in ambush, who fell upon his soldiers in front, flank, and rear. At the same time troops of the mountaineers had possessed themselves, as before, of the crags which overhung the precipices, and showered down from thence huge stones upon the Carthaginians.

10. After nine days' march, Hannibal gained the summit of the Alps. Here he remained awhile, to recruit the strength of his wearied army, and to give time to the sick and wounded, to rejoin the main body. Hannibal pointed out to his soldiers the pleasant country

ying round the foot of the Alps, and assured them that from this time they might reckon on the capture of the mighty city. The day following he began to descend the mountains; but the difficulties of the descent were found to be more formidable than those of attaining the summit. He was obliged with incredible labor to cut a road for his army through the solid rock; yet with such expedition was this mighty task accomplished, that in four days from the commencement of his descent, he found himself in the plains of Italy.

11. The astonishment of the Romans was at its height, when they heard that Hannibal had successfully crossed the Alps, and arrived in the Roman dominions. Here again he pitched his camp, and stayed to refresh his men; then marching onwards, he received intelligence that Scipio was on his way to meet him. This general advanced with all his forces to the Ticin, a small river on the north of the Po. The two armies approached nearer and nearer to each other, till, on the third day, word was brought in to each army by its scouts, that the enemy was in view. A battle quickly ensued, in which Scipio was obliged to retreat. Another battle took place at Trebia, with no better success to the Romans; after which, Hannibal crossed the Alps into Etruria.

12. Hannibal was pursuing his march towards Rome,

11. Battle with Scipio? 12. Battle of lake Trasymenus?
Stratagem of Hannibal?

when he was overtaken by the Romans near the lake Thrasymentus. In the battle which followed, fifteen thousand Romans were slain, amongst whom was the consul Flaminius. Rome was in despair, on receiving news of this defeat; and after many debates in the senate, it was at length agreed to appoint Fabius Maximus pro-dictator. The caution and prudence of this commander baffled the schemes of his enemy. He even found means to enclose the Carthaginian within mountains; and it was only by a stratagem, that Hannibal was able to save his army. He collected together a great number of oxen, and having fastened torches to their horns, commanded them to be driven furiously down an eminence, in the direction of the Roman camp. The Romans were in consternation at this unusual sight; and, during their confusion, Hannibal found means to march through a mountain pass into the open country.

13. The next great battle between the two armies was at Cannæ, where the Romans again suffered a sad defeat, and Æmilius, the consul, was slain. The slaughter was terrible on both sides, but that of the Romans was overwhelming. The voice of lamentation and mourning was heard in every part of Rome, after the news of the total overthrow of the army; yet the senate refused to redeem the prisoners which Hannibal had taken.

14. The Carthaginians retired into winter quarters at Capua. Hannibal despatched his brother Mago to Carthage, with an account of his success. The senate expressed great approbation of his conduct, and at once granted him the supplies of men, elephants, and money, for which he had sent. But Hanno, a senator, who from the beginning had been averse to an open war with the Romans, advised that the present time of victory should be employed in negotiating an honorable peace. His advice, however, was neglected, and the supplies were sent. It is said, that Hannibal, on this occasion, sent to Carthage three bushels of rings and other ornaments, taken from the Roman knights slain in battle.

15. Victory now began to turn to the side of the Romans. Hanno, a general under Hannibal, was defeated with great loss, and the latter was himself overpowered by Marcellus, and retreated to Tarentum. Sicily having been converted to the Carthaginian interest, Marcellus laid siege to Syracuse with a powerful army; and it was forced to surrender to the Roman arms. This fine city was a sea-port of Sicily, and a flourishing republic. It was the most opulent and the most powerful of all the Grecian cities, and by its own strength alone was able, at different times, to contend with all the power of Carthage and Rome.

14. Embassy to Carthage? 15. Change of victory? Siege of Syracuse?

16. Syracuse is said to have been often besieged by powerful armaments, without success; and to have contained within its walls fleets and armies, that were the terror of the world. It was first governed by kings; but, for the space of two hundred years, considerable obscurity involves its history, till we discover it to have been conquered by the Romans, and added to their empire. The city did not, however, long remain under the Roman yoke. It was erected into a republic, with a popular government; after which it was again under the guidance of kings, till the time that Marcellus sat down with a Roman army before its walls.

17. The Romans were for a long time baffled in their attacks upon this place, by the wonderful machines and fires of Archimedes. Marcellus obtained possession of it, during a public festival, while the soldiers and citizens were indulging in wine. He was admitted through one of the gates by Sosis, a brazier, and deputies were shortly after sent to him, tendering submission, and entreating favorable terms. Marcellus granted life and liberty to all of free condition, but gave up the city to be plundered. He commanded the soldiers to spare the citizens; but the ungovernable army committed many cruelties whilst searching for plunder. To the great sorrow of the conqueror, Archimedes himself fell a victim to the anger of a lawless soldier.

16. History of this city? 17. Archimedes? Capture of Syracuse

18. The Romans now brought over Syphax, a Numidian king, to aid them against the Carthaginians; but Massinissa, a young warrior in alliance with Hannibal, overthrew him in a great battle, and slew thirty thousand men. By treachery and stratagem, Hannibal made himself master of Tarentum. But when the Capuans implored his assistance against the Romans, who were besieging their city, he hastened thither, and, being unable to induce the enemy to join battle, he left his camp silently, and hastened to the walls of Rome. The Romans were much surprised to behold Hannibal advancing to the capital, but they opposed him with so much valor, that he despaired of being able to effect his purpose. Meanwhile Capua was left without relief, and fell into the hands of the Romans.

19. Three general battles were fought between Marcellus and Hannibal, in the space of three days. In the first engagement victory was doubtful; in the second, the Carthaginians had the advantage; and, in the third, the Romans were conquerors. But the consuls were unable to keep the field; whilst Hannibal ravaged the countries of Italy, and took a considerable body of Romans prisoners. The city of Tarentum, however, in which he had left a garrison, was entered by Fabius, and all the inhabitants were put to the sword. Shortly

18. Scipio? Hannibal's march to Rome? 19. Battles with Marcellus? Tarentum? Asdrubal?

after this, Marcellus was slain in an ambush by the Numidians, and his colleague was mortally wounded. Asdrubal, the brother of Hannibal, left Spain, crossed the Alps with a powerful army, and descended upon Italy, for the purpose of joining forces with his brother. This union threw the Romans into the greatest consternation.

20. Having concluded the war in Spain, Scipio returned to Rome, and was elected consul. Sicily was assigned him for his province, but, being desirous to go with an army into Africa, the senate gave him permission to sail with a body of forces into that country, if he thought it would be for the interest of the republic. A dreadful plague broke out in the Roman and Carthaginian armies; but the latter had to bear the miseries of famine as well as pestilence. Scipio's generals committed the most cold-blooded cruelties, in the cities and countries to which they were sent, and the enormities of these officers were afterwards urged against Scipio himself. The Romans, at this time full of superstitious fears, sent to Phrygia, in obedience to an oracle, to bring the goddess Cybele to Rome. This deity was nothing more than a shapeless stone; when it arrived, it was placed with great ceremony in the temple of Victory.

21. Hannibal was at length recalled by the Carthaginian senate to Africa. On leaving the scene of his

20. Where was Scipio sent? What is said of a plague? Scipio's generals? 21 Hannibal's recall? Omen?

consul Galba, and was forced to withdraw from the siege of Athens. He was afterwards driven into Thessaly, and obliged to beg for peace. This was granted to him, on condition of his paying a very large sum of money; and liberty was thus restored to Greece.

2. The next expedition of the Romans was against Antiochus, the king of Syria. He attempted to obtain peace, by an offer to quit all his possessions in Europe, and such in Asia as were in alliance with Rome. But his offer was made at too late a season. Scipio had perceived his own superiority, and was resolved to reap the benefit of it. The Syrian monarch took the field at the head of eighty thousand men; his enemies were much inferior in numbers, but of better discipline and firmer courage.

3. Antiochus was entirely routed, his own chariots, armed with scythes, being driven back upon his men, and bearing death in their path. He was compelled to accept peace, on such terms as the Romans offered. One of the conditions of this peace was, that he should deliver up Hannibal, who in his age and exile had sought refuge at the court of this prince.

4. Aware that he could no longer expect protection, Hannibal secretly departed, and, after leading awhile the life of a wanderer, he visited the court of Prusias,

2. Antiochus? The number of his forces? 3. What was the fortune of the battle? 4. What is said of Hannibal?

king of Bithynia To this, the last place of his refuge, Roman resentment pursued him, and the base Prusias promised to deliver his guest into the hands of his enemies.

5. The old general had been ungratefully driven from his native country, and had found on every side nothing but treachery and baseness. He resolved never to be taken by the Romans, and carried as a show and spectacle to the city, at whose gates he had appeared as a conqueror. In a ring on his finger, he always concealed a dose of poison. To this he was at last compelled to have recourse, to prevent his being taken prisoner. Thus perished the greatest general of his age.

6. About fifty years after the close of the second Punic war, the Romans sought a pretence to renew hostilities. During the long interval of peace, Carthage had so increased in wealth and power, as both to be an object of alarm to Rome, and to hold out to her avarice a prospect of plunder. The consuls set out with an army, to effect the entire destruction of the rival city.

7. The Carthaginians vainly endeavored to avert the ruin, which was gathering over their heads. They made an absolute surrender of themselves, by their ambassadors, and requested to know what was the will of Rome. They were answered, that they must send three hundred

5. His death? 6. Carthage? March of the Roman army?
7. Conduct of the Carthaginians? Order of the consuls?

of their noblest youth, as hostages, to the consuls at Lilybæum; and hear their farther pleasure when they arrived at Utica. Thither the consuls repaired with a powerful army; and ordered their unfortunate enemies to deliver up all their arms.

8. This humiliating command was, at length, complied with, and the consuls informed the deputies, that their countrymen must leave the city, as it was the will of Rome to raze it to the ground. It was then that this wretched people gathered courage from despair. The ambassadors returned home; and when they had told the full extent of their misfortunes, the people loudly reproached such of the senate as had consented to the delivery of hostages, and the surrender of arms.

9. The noise of military preparations resounded on all sides. The citizens were engaged day and night in manufacturing weapons, and the women cut off their long hair to make strings for the bows. The Romans, apprehending no resistance from a disarmed people, made no haste towards Carthage; and they at last came before the city, to find a terrible enemy, completely armed, to oppose them.

10. Several battles were fought before the walls, in which the Romans were defeated. They at length called in the aid of treachery, and the fate of Carthage

8. Was this complied with? 9. Preparations for resistance?
10. Progress of the siege? Fate of the city?

splendid victories, he could not refrain from tears. As he approached the African coast, he commanded the man at the mast-head to tell what he saw; who answered—"The ruins of a tomb on an eminence." This omen appeared unfavorable; continuing his voyage, Hannibal at length landed between Susa and Adrumetum.

22. A conference took place between the Roman and Carthaginian generals near Zama, in which it was in vain attempted to arrange terms of peace. A dreadful engagement ensued, and the Carthaginians were defeated with great slaughter. After this the enemy was obliged to sue for peace on any terms; and, the war being terminated, Scipio returned to Rome in triumph, and was honored with the surname of Africanus. Thus closed the Second Punic War.

CHAPTER XVII.

War with Macedon. War against Antiochus. Its issue. Death of Hannibal. Third Punic War. Siege of Carthage. Its destruction.

1. DURING the contest with Carthage, the Romans carried on a vigorous war against Philip, king of Macedon. This monarch was frequently defeated by the

22. Conference with Scipio? Battle? Close of the war?

1. What is said of the war with Philip? Its issue?

was sealed. One by one, the fortresses of the city were taken, and the enemy advanced into its very heart. The temple only remained. This was the last refuge of deserters from the Roman camp, and of such Carthaginians as were the foremost to undertake the war. Aware that resistance was vain, and sure that they should receive no mercy, they at length set fire to the building, and perished in the flames. Such was the end of Carthage.

11. Other states soon met with a similar fate. Corinth, one of the noblest cities of Greece, was levelled to the ground by a Roman army. Numantia, the strongest city in Spain, was besieged by Scipio, and was fired by its desperate inhabitants. Not one of them escaped death. Spain thenceforth became a Roman province

CHAPTER XVIII.

Growing extravagance. Tiberius Gracchus. His character and fate. Caius Gracchus. He obtains the tribuneship. Disturbances in the city. A party retire to Mount Aventine. Battle. Death of Gracchus.

1. ROME was now left the mistress of the world, and without a rival in wealth or power. The spoils of Asia

11. Other Roman conquests?

1. What is said of the spoils of Asia? Two men of the people?

corrupted the public simplicity, and led to a spirit of idle extravagance, and grasping avarice. Among the people were two men, who perceived this growing corruption, and resolved, if possible, to repress it. These were Tiberius and Caius Gracchus.

2. As a first step to this, Tiberius Gracchus obtained the renewal of a law, which enacted that no person in the state should possess over five hundred acres of land. This law greatly disgusted the wealthy, and they endeavored to persuade the people, that the only object of its passage was to breed disorder and confusion in the state.

3. But their efforts were in vain. Tiberius was very eloquent, and possessed great influence. This he employed in advancing the interests of the poor, at the expense of the rich; till at length he fell a victim to his zeal, and was murdered in a tumult of the senators.

4. Caius Gracchus was but twenty-one years of age, at the death of his brother. He lived in solitude, and passed his time in the cultivation of eloquence. His first office was the quæstorship of the army in Sardinia. Here he obtained great respect and favor; and when the king of Numidia sent a present of corn to the Romans, he ordered his ambassadors to say that it was a tribute to the virtues of Caius Gracchus.

2. Of what law did they obtain the renewal? 3. Fate of Tiberius Gracchus? 4. What is said of Caius Gracchus? His first office? Ambassadors from Numidia?

5. This message the senate treated with scorn, and dismissed the ambassadors as ignorant barbarians. The insult so enraged young Gracchus, that he left the army at once, and offered himself to the people as a candidate for the tribuneship. He was declared tribune, in spite of the warmest opposition from the senate, and soon became very popular and powerful in the state.

6. Gracchus, however, found the favor of the populace but an unstable support, and when he stood a third time for the tribuneship he failed in obtaining it. This was the signal for his destruction. The consul Opimius surrounded his own person with a powerful guard, and took every occasion to insult Gracchus, that he might kill him in the quarrel that might thus follow.

7. Gracchus avoided every meeting with the consul, and would not condescend even to wear arms in self defence. His friend Flaccus, however, a zealous tribune resolved to oppose party to party. One morning, when the consul was sacrificing, according to custom, at the capitol, the two parties attended there. At this time, one of the lictors cried out insultingly to Flaccus and his party, "Ye factious citizens, make way for honest men."

8. This insult so provoked the party to whom it was addressed, that they instantly fell upon the lictor and

5. Insult offered to them? Course of Gracchus? 6. His further fortunes? 7. What is said of Gracchus? The tribune? Occurrence at the capitol? 8. Gracchus and his party? Proclamation of the consul?

killed him. Gracchus and his followers then retired to Mount Aventine. A proclamation was at once issued by the consuls, declaring that whoever should bring them the head of Gracchus or of Flaccus, should receive its weight in gold. Pardon was also offered to all who would leave them, and return to their homes.

9. This produced the desired effect. One by one, the mean, the avaricious, the timid and the fickle deserted, till but a very small number remained with their leaders. The consul Opimius led his soldiers to the mount, and a terrible conflict followed, in which about three thousand citizens were slain. Gracchus retired to the temple of Diana, where he was resolved to put an end to his own life. This was prevented by two of his friends, who had accompanied him, and who persuaded him to save himself by flight. He was closely pursued, and his friends were cut down by his side, as they were fighting bravely in his defence. At length, being surrounded and driven to despair, he prevailed upon his own slave to kill him.

10. Thus died Caius Gracchus, about ten years after his brother Tiberius, and six years after he first busied himself in the affairs of the republic. He is blamed by historians as a factious and seditious man, seeking to bring about troubles in the state for his own elevation. If this be true, then he was indeed wicked and abandon-

9. Its consequences? Conflict? Death of Gracchus? 10. How is Caius Gracchus considered by historians? What further is here said of him?

ed. But if in his contests with the senate, he was moved by no other desire than that of advancing the interests of the people, by just and necessary reform of existing abuses, then he is entitled to be numbered among the patriots who deserve the gratitude of mankind.

CHAPTER XIX.

Vices of the succeeding period. War with Jugurtha. Fortunes of Caius Marius. Sylla. Conspiracy of Catiline. The first Triumvirate. Conquests and fortunes of Julius Cæsar.

1. THE remaining period of Roman history is marked by vices, which we have not before been obliged to look upon. Luxury and corruption succeeded to the stern virtue of the earlier periods. The poorer classes were reduced to a slavish submission, and the wealthy ruled them with an absolute dominion. While in this miserable state at home, however, the Romans still pursued their foreign conquests with success.

2. Jugurtha was an ambitious Numidian, who usurped the throne, after destroying one of the king's sons, and banishing another. The surviving brother fled to Rome, and laid his just complaints before the senate. This

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1. What is said of the remaining period of Roman history?
 2. Jugurtha? The senate?

assembly had reached such a degree of corruption, that the gold of Jugurtha was able to bribe most of its members, and the suppliant monarch perished in the snare of his enemy.

3. A continuance of his cruel and despotic conduct, at length, brought upon him the vengeance of the Roman people. In the consulship of Marius, this monarch was delivered into their hands, and sent to Rome to adorn the triumph of his conqueror. He died in prison B. C. 106.

4. The disputes of the rival consuls, Sylla and Caius Marius, now began to create confusion in the republic. Marius, who had been the pride of the republic, was at last driven into banishment, and the distresses of his exile were very severe. After a series of adventures he arrived in Africa, and went on shore near Carthage. He had scarcely landed, when the Roman prætor sent him word, that he must leave the coast immediately.

5. Struck with wonder and indignation, Marius for awhile remained in silence, his eyes cast upon the ground. The messenger demanded what answer he should return to the prætor. "Tell him," replied the fallen general, "that you have seen Caius Marius sitting on the ruins of Carthage." By this he pointed out, most forcibly, the instability of human power, and the

greatness of his own misfortunes. He returned to his ship, and spent the greater part of the winter on the sea.

6. Marius afterwards returned to Italy, and joining his forces with those of Cinna, his most zealous partisan, he laid siege to Rome. Having entered the city, he committed the most cruel outrages, and murdered many of the senators and principal men. His cruelties were only terminated by his death, a few days afterwards.

7. After a successful campaign in Asia, Sylla returned to Italy, defeated his enemies, and became master of Rome. No man ever made a more cruel use of victory than Sylla. Having committed enormities of the most gross and bloody character, he caused himself to be elected dictator, and of his own accord resigned his office, and went into retirement. Soon after his resignation he died.

8. On the death of Sylla, the city was doomed to be distracted by the dissensions of Pompey and Crassus; one the richest man in Rome, the other the most beloved general. Pompey added very much to his military glory, by clearing the Mediterranean of pirates. But while he was thus pursuing his conquests abroad, Rome was nearly ruined by the conspiracy of Catiline.

9. This was a conspiracy of many of the ambitious

6. His subsequent fortunes and cruelties? His death? 7. Sylla?
8. New dissensions in the city? 9. Conspiracy of Catiline?
Cicero? Death of Catiline?

and aspiring men of the state, to elevate themselves on the ruins of their country. They were led by Sergius Catiline, a man who had wasted his fortune and his character by an ill-spent life, and whose only hope was in some desperate resource like the present. The conspiracy was discovered in season to be checked. The celebrated orator Cicero, at that time consul, distinguished himself by his energy and activity in quelling it. Many of the traitors were at once executed. Catiline fell in battle, fighting with the courage of despair, and performing prodigies of valor.

10. At this time, Pompey was just returning from the East in triumph, and Julius Cæsar had left his prætorship in Spain, rich and covered with glory. These two generals then formed a connexion with Crassus, and it was resolved that nothing should for the future be done in the state, without the consent of all of them. The union of these three men was called the First Triumvirate.

11. The first step of Cæsar at this time was to obtain the consulship, and begin his plans of empire. In order to gain popularity, he obtained the passage of a law, for dividing certain lands among the poor citizens. He then consulted with his confederates, about sharing the foreign provinces between them. The partition was soon made.

10. The First Triumvirate? 11. Cæsar? Division of the provinces?

Syria was assigned to Crassus, Spain to Pompey, and Gaul to Cæsar.

12. Cæsar now assumes a most important part in the history of the republic. Gaul was composed of many fierce and powerful nations. The expedition of Cæsar, into this country and Britain, continued eight years. During this period he fought very numerous battles, and subdued many barbarous tribes. But his attention was then withdrawn to the condition of Rome itself, where a contest was raging, which was a matter of personal interest; and which resulted in a war that changed the Roman republic into a despotic monarchy.

13. Pompey, who remained in Rome during Cæsar's absence, had acquired the good-will of the senate, and was disposed to contend with him for the palm of greatness. The jealousies between these two great men ran so high, that at length there remained no mode of ending their disputes but recourse to arms. Cæsar, by a decree of the senate, was ordered to disband his forces within a limited time, and unless he complied with this demand, he was to be treated as an enemy of the republic. He refused to obey, unless Pompey would also disband his forces, and declared that he would march into Italy, and avenge the injuries done to himself and the commonwealth.

12. What is said of Gaul? The expedition of Cæsar? 13. Pompey? Jealousies between Pompey and Cæsar?

14. Rome was now to be involved once more in the horrors of a civil war. Cæsar immediately collected his forces, and sent them, under the command of Mark Antony, to seize Aretium, while he himself remained at Ariminum. It is related that when Cæsar received the news, which rendered it necessary for him either to act with vigor, or to surrender himself to the senate, he sat down to table with his friends as usual, and, after sunset, set out with all possible secrecy and a small retinue. His light going out, he missed his way, and wandered about for some time till he found his guide, who brought him into the road again. At break of day, he came up with his troops on the banks of the Rubicon, a little river which formed the boundary of his province. He hesitated, whether or not to cross the limits of his government. At length, spurring his horse into the water, he exclaimed aloud to his soldiers, "Let us go, my friends, where the gods, and the injustice of our enemies call us." Then, drawing his sword, he passed over the river, and was followed by his whole army.

15. Cæsar, having passed the Rubicon, and thus invaded the territories of the republic, had no other course left than to prosecute the war which he had begun. His forces were composed of veteran troops, valiant, hardened by the fatigues of war, and strongly attached

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14. Civil war? Course of Cæsar? Passage of the Rubicon?
15. Cæsar's army? His success?

to their general. In six months after he had crossed the Rubicon, Cæsar had made himself master of all Italy.

16. Pompey was obliged to leave Italy at the mercy of his rival, and Cæsar went back to Rome, to take possession of the public treasures. Having provided for the continuance of the war, he again left the city, to subdue the lieutenants of Pompey, who had long been at the head of a veteran and victorious army, in Spain.

17. While thus employed in the conquest of Spain, his rival was equally active in making preparations to oppose him. All the kings of the East had espoused the cause of Pompey, and sent him very liberal supplies. He attacked the lieutenants of Cæsar, in that part of the empire, with great success; and crowds of nobles and citizens, from Rome, thronged daily to join him.

18. Cæsar's affairs had begun to look darkly, when he was at length brought to a general battle at Pharsalia. Pompey had become confident by success; and his camp presented to the victors all the magnificence of an entertainment, rather than the necessary and usual accommodations of the field. This battle ended in the total overthrow of Pompey's forces, and he was himself obliged to escape by flight.

19. He first sailed to Amphipolis, and endeavored to collect fresh forces, but Cæsar's activity obliged him to

16. War in Spain? 17. War in the East? 18. Pharsalia?
19. Death of Pompey?

depart from thence to Mitylene, where he had left his wife Cornelia. Here he was detained two days by the badness of the weather; and having increased his fleet with a few galleys, he sailed to Cilicia, and thence to Cyprus. He then resolved to go to Egypt, and beg the assistance of Ptolemy. From this king he received favorable promises, but was basely murdered by his order.

CHAPTER XX.

Cæsar sails for Egypt. War between Cleopatra and Ptolemy. Cæsar's return to Rome. Honors bestowed on him. Conspiracy. Death. Second Triumvirate. Battle of Philippi. Expedition to Egypt. Troubles. Death of Antony and Cleopatra.

1. HAVING now obtained a complete victory, his success only inspired Cæsar to new activity. He set sail for Egypt in pursuit of his fugitive enemy, and arrived at Alexandria. Here he received news of his death, and ordered a magnificent tomb to be erected to his memory.

2. The government of Egypt was at this time in dispute, between Cleopatra and her brother Ptolemy. Cæsar claimed the right of deciding the contest, and

1. What was the course of Cæsar? 2. What is said of the government of Egypt?

gave a decree in favor of the lady, by whose charms he had been captivated. A war was the consequence, in which Ptolemy was killed, and Egypt subdued by the Romans.

3. It is not necessary to follow Cæsar, through his many victorious expeditions. The course, that is to be tracked only through blood, we can derive little pleasure or profit from pursuing. Cato was the last surviving general of Pompey's army, and on his death in the city of Utica, Cæsar returned in triumph to Rome.

4. This triumph was of the most splendid kind. His conduct too was highly honorable, for his clemency to the partisans of Pompey. The people were blinded by his great success. They heaped every honor on him. He was called the emperor and father of his country; and his person was declared to be sacred.

5. Having restored prosperity to the city, and framed wise laws for its future good, Cæsar was again obliged to go to Spain. The friends of Pompey had resolved to protract the war in that quarter, and had brought a large army into the field. Cæsar advanced upon them with almost incredible despatch, completely routed them, and by this last victory subdued all his open enemies.

6. The senate conferred new honors upon Cæsar, and when he had been appointed dictator, it was rumored

3. Of Cæsar's expedition? 4. His reception at Rome? His popularity? 5. War in Spain? 6. Jealousies among the people? Conspiracy? Its leaders?

that he intended to make himself king. Jealousies sprang up among the people. A conspiracy was formed against him, in which no less than sixty senators were engaged. At the head of it were Brutus, whose life Cæsar had spared at Pharsalia, and Cassius who had been pardoned soon after. They were both prætors for the present year. The former prided himself on being descended from the Brutus who first gave Rome freedom. It is to be regretted that the second Brutus could not have done justice to his country, without treachery to his friend.

7. The ides of March had been selected by the conspirators, for the execution of their design. Many prodigies are said to have foretold the death of Cæsar. Among these were unnatural appearances in the animals prepared for sacrifice, astonishing omens from the flight of birds, and dreams of alarming import.

8. All these Cæsar disregarded; and though his wife Calpurnia, the night before his assassination, dreamed that he was stabbed in her arms, he resolved to go, on the following morning, to the senate-house. On his way thither, he met with Spurina, an augur, who had cautioned him to beware the ides of March. "Well, Spurina," said he, "the ides of March are come." "Come, Cæsar, but not past," was the reply.

7. Time of the conspiracy? Prodigies? 8. Dream of Calpurnia? Meeting with Spurina?

9. Having arrived at the senate-house, the conspirators surrounded the curule-chair, and Cimber, one of the party, began to supplicate Cæsar, till, in the earnestness of his suit, he grasped the extremity of his robe, as if to prevent him from rising. This was the appointed signal. Casca, who was behind, now stabbed him slightly in his shoulder. Cæsar instantly turned, and with the steel of his tablet wounded him in the arm.

10. The other conspirators now rushed forward, but Cæsar continued to defend himself with great intrepidity, till he perceived Brutus among the number of his assassins. From that moment he resigned himself to his fate "*And thou, too, Oh Brutus!*" he exclaimed, as the latter plunged his dagger into his bosom. Then, covering his head with his robe, he sank down at the base of Pompey's statue, after having received three-and-twenty wounds.

11. As soon as the conspirators had despatched Cæsar, they retired to the capitol, and guarded the approaches to it by a body of gladiators. The people were struck with horror and astonishment. Mark Antony and Lepidus resolved to make the deed pave the way to their own elevation. They harangued the multitude, and inflamed them with such indignation, that they would have killed the murderers on the spot.

9. 10. Describe the scene of Cæsar's assassination? 11. What was the course of the conspirators? Antony and Lepidus?

12. At this moment Augustus the grand-nephew of Cæsar arrived at Rome, and joined his interests with those of Lepidus and Antony. Thus was formed the second triumvirate. They divided the provinces among themselves, and each consented to the sacrifice of his best friends to the caprice or vengeance of his colleagues. In this horrible proscription, three hundred senators and three thousand knights were slain.

13. Brutus and Cassius fled to Greece, and persuaded the Roman students at Athens to declare with them in the cause of freedom. In Syria, in Macedonia and the neighboring countries, they soon raised a formidable army, and placed themselves at its head. Their first intention was to march against Cleopatra, who had made great exertions to assist their opponents. From this however they were diverted. Their enemy marched into Macedonia to meet them. A battle was fought at Philippi, in which Cassius was entirely defeated and threw himself upon his sword. In a second battle that followed shortly after at the same place, the troops of Brutus were also routed.

14. The unfortunate Roman with a small number of friends passed over a rivulet, and night approaching, sat down under a rock which concealed him from the enemy. Perceiving that all was lost, "Oh, unhappy

12. Second triumvirate? Proscriptions? 13. Brutus and Cassius? Their army? Battle of Philippi? 14. Fate of Brutus? The other conspirators?

Virtue," he exclaimed, "I have worshipped thee as a divinity, but thou art only a name." He also fell on his own sword, and of all the conspirators against Cæsar, not one died a natural death.

15. The triumvirs made a new division of the provinces, by which all the power and wealth of the empire were placed in the hands of Antony and Octavius. The former of these visited Greece, and other states under his dominion, to receive their flattery and homage. Cleopatra, the celebrated queen of Egypt, was summoned to appear before him. Conscious that her beauty would enable her to deal with the Roman as she pleased, she resolved to visit his court in obedience to his command.

16. Being arrived at the mouth of the Cydnus, she embarked in a vessel, whose stern was of gold, the sails of purple silk, and whose oars, covered with plates of silver, gently kept time to the sounds of flutes and cymbals. The queen lay under a canopy of rich cloth of gold, adorned like Venus rising out of the sea, surrounded with children, like Cupids, fanning her. Her women, beautifully dressed as Naiads and Graces, were leaning negligently on the sides and shrouds of the vessel. The sweets of the burning perfumes reached the banks of the river, which were thronged by multitudes of people.

15. New division of the empire? Antony? Cleopatra? 16. Describe her sail down the Cydnus.



Cleopatra sailing down the Cydnus

17. Antony was at once captivated by her beauty, and sacrificed every thing to its possession. He followed the queen into Egypt, and remained there buried in luxury and dissipation. Meanwhile Augustus led back his veteran army into Italy, and deprived husbandmen and shepherds of their lands, to settle them as bounties on his troops.

18. This occasioned the most severe distress, and it was soon followed by another civil war, between Augustus and the consul Lucius, brother of Antony. Lucius was entirely overthrown; and the colleagues met at Brundisium, and arranged their differences. To make their union more binding, a marriage was concluded between Antony and Octavia the sister of Augustus.

19. Lepidus having been banished, Augustus now resolved to set aside Antony, and thus be the sole master of Rome. Antony's conduct was such as to give him ample opportunities, for the performance of this design. Negligent of all business, he was the servant and slave to the pleasures of Cleopatra, thus giving offence to the Roman people, and heaping the most bitter insults upon his wife Octavia.

20. Augustus now made open war, and the two armies took the field; one mustering all the forces of the east, the other of the west. A great naval battle was fought

17. Antony's visit to Egypt? Return of Augustus? 18. Civil war? 19. Conduct of Antony?

near Actium, a city of Epirus. The fortune of the day was decided by the conduct of Cleopatra, who fled from the engagement attended by sixty sail. Antony was shameless enough to follow her, and abandon his soldiers to their fate.

21. The victor pursued the unhappy fugitives to Egypt, where they both soon after died. Antony stabbed himself on hearing a report of the queen's death, and Cleopatra perished by the bite of an asp, which was conveyed to her in a basket of figs.

CHAPTER XXI.

Augustus sole monarch. His reign. Anecdotes. Appointment of a successor. Auguries. Death of Augustus. Tiberius. His successors. Decline and fall of the Empire.

1. AUGUSTUS was now left sole master of the Roman empire. He soon returned to Rome in triumph, and began to efface the memory of his former cruelty, by magnificent shows, and splendid entertainments. Having waded through blood to the throne, he determined to establish it in the affection of the people, by clemency and justice.

2. He did much to improve the laws and manners of

1. What is said of Augustus? 2. His improvement of the laws?

the city, and at every step of his progress was loaded with additional honors. A laurel was ordered to be planted at his gate. His house was called the palace. He was called the father of his country, and indeed he did every thing in his power to reform the rough character of the Romans.

3. Though he could condemn or acquit when he thought proper, he gave the laws their proper course, and would sometimes plead in person for those he desired to protect. An old soldier one day claimed his assistance in a certain cause, but Augustus desired him to apply to an advocate. "Ah," replied the soldier, "I did not bid you find another soldier, to fight for you at the battle of Actium." The reply so pleased Augustus, that he pleaded his cause in person and won it for him.

4. Cornelius Cinna, a grandson of Pompey, had entered into a conspiracy against him, but the plot was discovered before its execution. Augustus resolved to mortify Cinna by the greatness of his generosity, and thus addressed him;—"I have twice given you your life, first as an open enemy, now as a secret conspirator; I now give the consulship; and let me see if your fidelity will not surpass my confidence."

5. In his old age, Augustus appointed his son-in-law Tiberius, for his successor, and associated him with him.

3. Anecdote? 4. What is related of Cornelius Cinna? 5. Appointment of successor to Augustus? Omen?

self in the government of the Empire. About this time he solemnized the census, by which the population of the city was found to be four million one hundred and thirty-seven thousand; which shows that Rome was equal to four of the greatest cities of modern times. While this was performing, by a mighty assemblage in the Campus Martius, it is said that an eagle flew several times about the head of the emperor, then directing its flight to a neighboring temple perched over the name of Agrippa. This was interpreted by the augurs as an omen of the death of Augustus, and shortly after he died.

6. Under Augustus, the Roman empire became the fourth great empire of the world. Its dominions, at the time of his death extended on the west to the Atlantic ocean, on the north to the Rhine and the Danube, on the east to the Euphrates, and on the south to the sandy deserts of Arabia and Africa. Such, indeed, was the glorious state of Rome in the time of Augustus, that, to this day, when speaking of the most flourishing period in the history of any country, we call it the Augustan age. In this reign the SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD was born at Bethlehem in Judæa.

7. Of the period that followed the death of Augustus, we may form some idea, from the fact that the seven succeeding emperors perished by a violent death. Their

6. Extent of the Roman empire? Birth of the Saviour? 7. What is said of the successors of Augustus?

reigns were short, turbulent and bloody; and they all died by poison or by the sword. Vespasian was the first emperor after Augustus who died in his bed.

8. Titus, the son of Vespasian, first became known by his valor at the siege of Jerusalem. He was made emperor A. D. 79, and died two years afterwards deeply lamented. His successor Domitian was the last of the twelve Cæsars. The early part of his reign was tranquil, but he afterwards degraded himself by his vices, and perished by the dagger of an assassin.

9. From the death of Domitian A. D. 96, to the reign of Constantine, Roman history possesses very little interest. It is a tissue of luxury and crime. The soldiers elevated their favorite to the throne, as often as it was made vacant, by the dagger of the assassin, or the self-destroying profligacy of its occupant.

10. Constantine the Great removed the seat of the court from Rome, to the place where old Byzantium formerly stood, and called it from his own name Constantinopolis. From that time the two cities looked on each other with jealousy, and soon after the age of Constantine a separation was made of the empire. Rome was called the capital of the western, and Constantinople the capital of the eastern dominions of Rome.

8. Titus? Domitian? 9. Roman history from the death of Domitian to the reign of Constantine? 10. Constantine? His reign and death?

Constantine died A. D. 337, after a reign of thirty-one years of great glory and prosperity. His empire was divided among his three sons.

11. From the death of this great emperor, the condition of the Roman dominions became very desperate. The people were luxurious, corrupt and factious. In this situation, they presented an easy spoil to the hardy and ferocious nations of the north; who poured down upon the sunny plains of Italy, with a force as terrific and as inevitable, as that of the avalanche, which tumbles from the cloud-hidden summits of the Alps, and sweeps away whole villages in its frightful descent.

12. The great city, that had so long been the terror of the world, was compelled to send ambassadors to its besiegers to beg for terms of peace, or to request to fight with them in the open field. To this message the Gothic monarch replied with laughter, that "thick grass was more easily cut than thin;" implying that their troops, when cooped up in a city, would offer a more easy and speedy conquest, than when drawn out in order of battle.

13. The fate of Rome was fixed. The barbarians were this time prevailed on to depart by an immense tribute, but they soon returned. Conscious of their own strength, they ravaged the city, destroying its monuments, sparing

11. Condition of the Roman people? 12. The Goths? Their answer to the Roman ambassadors? 13. Fate of Rome?

neither private dwellings, nor public edifices, neither sex, nor age, nor religion.

14. Such was the end of the western empire of Rome. Its final dissolution was occasioned by an irruption of the northern tribes under Odoacer A. D. 476. The eastern empire continued an independent sovereignty from the A. D. 395 till the time of Constantine Palæologus A. D. 1453.

15. Of the emperors of the eastern empire, Justinian



Belisarius refuses the crown of Italy.

was among the most celebrated. His reign chiefly owed its splendor to Belisarius, one of the greatest

14. End of the western empire? Eastern? 15. Justinian? Belisarius? His history?

generals of his age, who gained many victories over the Goths, and led their king in triumph through the streets of Constantinople. He conquered Italy, and refused the crown that was offered him. He died in the year 565. His history has been much colored by the poets, and among other fictions it has been stated that in his old age his eyes were put out, and he was compelled to beg his bread in the streets of Constantinople.

16. In the year 1453, Mahomet II., emperor of the Turks besieged and took Constantinople, and thus put a final period to the Roman name. When Mahomet was surveying the splendid and desolate palaces of Constantine, "a melancholy reflection on the vicissitudes of human greatness forced itself upon his mind, and he repeated this distich of Arabian poetry: 'The spider hath wove his web in the imperial palace, and the owl hath sung her watch-song on the towers of Afrasiab.' "

CHAPTER XXII.

*Manners and customs. Ranks. Religion. Augurs
Many Deities. Christianity. Temples. Funeral rites
Marriage ceremonies.*

i. I AM now going to give you an account of the manners and customs, of the great people whose history you

16. Mahomet II.? Arabian poetry?

1. What is the subject now commenced?

have just read. I shall tell you about their domestic habits, and about their public observances; about their state of society, agriculture, shows, dresses, religion, marriage ceremonies, funeral rites, military institutions, and public edifices.

2. The people of Rome, as you know, were at first divided into two classes, the patricians and plebeians. It was to the struggles for power between these ranks, that most of the difficulties in the state were owing. To these ranks a third was afterwards added, called Equites,



Senator.



Emperor

or knights, and the custom of making slaves, of the subjects of conquered nations, introduced a fourth division

2. What is said of divisions of the people?

3. You have seen that the government of Rome was subject to very numerous changes. At one time it was under a king, at another under consuls, decemviri, dictators, or emperors. The other officers of the state were numerous, and invested with very different degrees of power.

4. The ministers of religion among the Romans did not form a distinct order of citizens, but were chosen from the most virtuous and honorable men of the state. The superstitions of the time gave rise to the establishment of a college of augurs, whose business it was to explain dreams, oracles and prodigies, and to foretell future events. They drew their auguries or presages



Leading a Bull to Sacrifice.

concerning futurity from the appearance of the heavens, and inspection of the entrails of birds and beasts.

3 Government? 4. Ministers of religion? Superstitions?

5. Of course they could no more divine the future, than the old women, you may sometimes meet with in our villages, who pretend to "tell your fortune," by examining the grounds of coffee cups. The weakest and most ignorant are now too well informed to give credit to these pretences. From this fact you can form some opinion as to the general intelligence of the Romans, compared with that of our own countrymen.

6. The augurs at Rome interpreted the will of the gods in the affairs of making war and peace, and none dared to dispute their authority. No business of importance could be proceeded in, without first consulting them; and their advice, whatever it might be, was, by a decree of the senate, to be religiously observed.

7. The office of an augur was important and honorable, and was sought after by many of the principal persons in the Roman senate. Cato, the censor, was a member of their college, and also Cicero; though they both appear to have been fully sensible of the extravagance and folly of the art they practised. A remark is attributed to Cato, that he wondered how one augur could look in the face of another without laughing.

8. The religion of the Romans was a religion of many deities. Every virtue and vice of the human heart, every faculty of the mind and body, every property of

5. What is said of these superstitions? 6. The augurs? 7. Great men among the augurs? Remark of Cato? 8. Religion?

the real and imaginary world, was presided over by its peculiar god. Every grove and mountain and stream, had its nymph or naiad, and every hero and sage of the country was elevated to the rank of a divinity.

9. Every religious sect was tolerated at Rome, except the Jews and the Christians. They were persecuted with unrelenting cruelty, until the mild precepts of the true religion triumphed over superstition and ignorance. Christianity at length prevailed over conflicting religious opinions, and was adopted as the religion of the state A. D. 311.

10. The number of deities whom the Romans worshipped occasioned the erection of a great number of temples. Many of these were very splendid edifices, adorned with all the arts of sculpture, and filled with offerings and sacrifices. Those built to the inferior deities were of less magnificence and grandeur, and were merely styled sacred houses. In the dwelling of every wealthy family, there was a private chapel, in which they worshipped their household gods. Ancient Rome is said to have contained four hundred and twenty temples.

11. Marriage was very much favored by the laws of Rome, and severe penalties were inflicted on those who remained single. At one period, the censors obliged all

9. Toleration? Christianity? 10. What is said of the Roman deities? Their temples? Household gods? 11. Marriage? Penalties?

the young bachelors to make oath, that they would marry within a certain time. Augustus increased the penalties on bachelors, and bestowed rewards on those who were parents of a numerous offspring.

12. The parties were betrothed some time before the actual celebration of the marriage. This was attended with many ceremonies, at which the priests and augurs assisted. The contract of marriage was drawn up in the presence of witnesses, and confirmed by the breaking of a straw between the engaged pair. The bridegroom then presented his bride with the wedding ring, and the father of the bride gave a great entertainment.

13. The wedding ring was worn on the third finger of the left hand, from a notion that a nerve of that finger communicated directly with the heart. In dressing the bride, they never failed to divide her locks with the point of a spear, to signify that she was about to become the wife of a warrior. They then crowned her with a chaplet of flowers, and put on her a veil proper for the occasion.

14. Her toilet being completed, she was led in the evening towards the bridegroom's house, by three boys, whose parents were still alive. Five torches were carried before her, and also a distaff and spindle. Being come to the door, she herself bound the posts with wreaths of wool washed over with melted tallow, to keep

out witchcraft. In going into the house, she was by no means to touch the threshold, but was to be lifted over by main force. When she had entered, the bridegroom presented her with the keys, and with two vessels, containing fire and water.

15. The bridegroom then gave a grand supper to all the company. The festival was accompanied with music and dancing, and the guests sang verses, in praise of the new-married couple.

16. The funeral rites of the Romans present a very interesting subject. Burning the dead, though practised by the Greeks from very early times, was not adopted in Rome till the later ages of the republic. It afterwards became universal, and was continued without interruption till the introduction of Christianity. It then gradually fell into disuse.

17. Among the Romans, the bed of the sick was never abandoned to hired nurses and servants. It was attended by the relatives and intimates, who waited till the last hour, and bade a last farewell to their dying friend. The body of the dead was bathed in perfumes, dressed in rich garments, and laid out on a couch strewn with flowers. The outer door of the house was shaded with branches of cypress. According to the heathen mythology, Charon would not convey the de

16. What is said of burning the dead? 17. The bed of a dying? Body? Heathen custom?

parted spirit across the Styx, without payment of a fixed toll. A small coin was therefore placed in the mouth of the deceased to meet this demand.

18. The funeral took place by torch light. The body was borne by near friends and relatives, on an open bier covered with the richest cloth. Lictors dressed in black regulated the procession. If the deceased had been a soldier, the badges of his rank were displayed, and the corps to which he belonged marched with their arms reversed.

19. Before the corpse were carried images of the deceased and his ancestors. Then followed musicians, and mourning women, who were hired to sing his praises, and dancers and buffoons, one of whom attempted to represent the character of the dead man, and imitate his manner when alive. The family of the deceased followed the bier in deep mourning, the sons with their heads covered, the daughters unveiled and with their hair dishevelled. Magistrates and patricians attended without their badges or ornaments; and the procession was closed by his freed men, with the cap of liberty on their heads.

20. The funeral ceremonies of a man of rank were distinguished by an oration in his honor, pronounced over the body by a friend. The scene of this display,

18. The funeral? 19. The procession? 20. Oration? Conclusion of the ceremonies?

was the forum, and in the later ages of the republic, it became very common. While the practice of burial prevailed, the body was either interred without a coffin, or placed in a kind of deep chest called a sarcophagus. On the termination of the rites, the sepulchre was strewed with flowers, and the mourners took a farewell of the remains of their friend. The attendants were then sprinkled with water by the priests, and all were dismissed.

21. When the custom of burning the body was introduced, a funeral pile was raised in the form of an altar, and the bier was placed upon it. The procession then moved slowly about, to the sound of solemn music, when the nearest relative advanced from the train with a lighted torch, and set fire to the pile. Perfumes and spices were then thrown into the blaze, and the embers were quenched with wine. The ashes were collected and placed in a costly urn, which was deposited in the family sepulchre. In the funeral solemnities of a soldier, his arms, and the spoils he had won from the enemy, were sometimes added to the funeral pile.

22. It was a horrid belief of the heathen nations, that the spirits of the dead were pleased with blood. It was their custom to sacrifice, on the tomb of the deceased, those animals to which he was most attached during his life. In the more remote and barbarous ages, men were

often the victims, domestic slaves and captives taken in war; and sometimes friends have thus devoted themselves from feelings of affection.

23. No-burial was allowed within the walls of the city, except to the vestal virgins, and some families of high distinction. The tombs of military men were usually raised in the field of Mars, and those of private citizens in the gardens of their villas, or by the side of the public roads. Many of these monuments are still standing. The sepulchres of the great and wealthy are engraven with long and pompous lists of their titles, honors and achievements. The tombs of the humble bear but a simple lesson to the reader, and some beautiful and touching expressions of sorrow or hope for the departed.

24. How much more affecting and impressive, are the simple rites of Christian burial, than the pomp and splendor of the Roman! There is nothing that speaks more strongly to the heart than a funeral ceremony in a New England village. Every thing is so still, and simple and unaffected, that the mind rests only on the solemnity of death, without being distracted by display and splendor.

25. Prayers are said with the family of the deceased, the friends and relatives follow the body in silent proces-

23. What is said of the burial places? Monuments? 24. Christian rites?

sion, and enter with it into the unadorned grave yard, where the generations of the family are sleeping. The body is consigned to the earth whence it came, dust to dust. Prayers are again said, and the mourners are dismissed to their sad homes, cheered, however, with the blessed consolations which their religion promises.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Roman farms. Mode of ploughing. Farm houses. Grain. Cattle. Superstitions of the farmers. Gardens. Vines. Country houses. Description of Pliny's Villa. Aqueducts.

1. I AM now going to tell you about the farms and gardens of the Romans. In the early and more virtuous ages of the state, the cultivation of the fields, and a few rude trades connected with it, were the only occupations. The man most valued and honored was the best husbandman, and many of the most ancient families received their names, from their success in the cultivation of plants, or the rearing of cattle.

2. It is probable that at this period, the ground was broken up only by the spade. Afterwards, when the farms were enlarged, more expeditious means were dis-

1. What were the early occupations of the Romans? 2. What is said of their mode of ploughing?

covered. Some of the Roman modes of ploughing are still in use. They always ploughed with oxen, a single pair, or sometimes three abreast yoked by the neck and horns.

3. The farm houses were at first little huts, but they were soon enlarged, to suit the increasing possessions of the owners. We read at a later period, of large store-houses and granaries, cellars for wine and oil, barns, together with separate buildings for the care and rearing of every species of domestic animal.

4. The kinds of grain in common cultivation were the same as those now known in Europe, with the exception of maize or Indian corn, which was first found in this country. The ancient mode of converting grain into meal was by pounding it, with an instrument something like the pestle and mortar. Mills moved by cattle, and by water, are later inventions.

5. Much care was paid by the Romans to the rearing of cattle. Sheep were secured under cover during the winter, notwithstanding the mildness of the Italian climate. Shearing time was a season of general festivity. Goats were made as profitable to the farmer as sheep. Their hair was clipped every year, and woven into a kind of coarse stuff, and their milk was the chief supply of the dairy.

3. Their farm houses? Other buildings? 4. What kinds of grain were cultivated? 5. What is said of cattle?

6. The Roman farmers were very superstitious. They refrained from all labor on the fifth day of the new moon, on the seventh and tenth they planted vines, and harnessed young oxen to the yoke; on the ninth they commenced a journey. The skeleton of an ass's head was hung up at the boundary of the farm, to enrich the soil and drive away the effects of blight. The same figure carved in brass, and crowned with vines, was affixed as an ornament to their couches.

7. In the remote ages, the gardens of the Romans contained only a few of the most common pot-herbs, and orchard trees. The more delicious fruits, and more beautiful flowers, were introduced at a much later period from the Eastern countries. The style of ornamental gardening was heavy and formal, producing a gloomy shade, rather than displaying beautiful scenery. It was the fashion to fill the gardens with dark walks, shaded with evergreens, loaded with statues, and bounded by high clipped hedges.

8. It is supposed that the Romans obtained a knowledge of the cultivation of the grape, and of the art of making wine, from Greece. They took great care of their vineyards, and labored in cultivating the plants, with much art and industry. The mode of gathering

6. Superstitions of the farmers? 7. Produce of the gardens? Ornamental gardening? 8. What is said of the grape? Wine? The Vintage?

and pressing the grape was the same that is now practised. The vintage was a time of festival, and the rustics made merry with the performance of a rude kind of comedy, and pouring out libations of new wine to Jupiter and Venus.

9. The wine was kept in jars, formed like urns, some of which are said to have been so large, as to have formed when filled, a load for a yoke of oxen. They were commonly ranged in cellars, but were sometimes buried in the earth, or even bedded in solid masonry. The wine was usually kept to a great age. It was held in much less favor than the wine of Greece, and was much cheaper.

10. I am now going to describe the Roman villas. Originally, they were nothing more than very humble farm-houses; but with the progress of wealth and luxury, they were made by degrees more extensive and costly. Some of them were surrounded with large parks, in which deer and various foreign wild animals were kept. Large fish-ponds were also not unfrequently attached to them, and were stocked at great expense. Generally, however, the villas were merely surrounded by gardens, and in size and appearance resembled those of modern Italy.

11. The philosopher, Pliny the younger, was a noble-

man and man of fortune, and the owner of four magnificent villas. Of two of these he has left minute descriptions. One of them you may now read about. It was seated on a rising ground, facing the south, with the Appenine mountains raising their tall cliffs in the distant back ground. A porch fronted the house, with a terrace before it, adorned with various figures, and bounded by a hedge of box. Hence you passed by an easy descent into a lawn, surrounded by walks, and adorned with box cut into the shapes of various animals

12. Beyond this lawn, you entered a ground for exercise, laid out in the form of a circus, ornamented with well trimmed box and other shrubs, and fenced with a wall covered by box. On the outside of the wall was a meadow, and beyond were other meadows, fields, and thickets.

13. Opposite the portico stood a square edifice, which encompassed a small area, shaded by four plane trees, with a fountain in the midst refreshing the surrounding verdure. This apartment consisted of a bed-chamber, and a dining room. A second portico looks out upon this little area. Another room, situated by the nearest plane tree, enjoyed constant greenness and shade. In the same building were dressing-rooms, porticoes, baths, and rooms for playing different games. The sides of

12. Ground for exercise? 13. Edifice opposite the portico?
Rooms of this building?

one room were encrusted half-way with carved marble; thence to the ceiling, branches of trees were painted, with birds intermixed with the foliage.

14. In front of these buildings and porticoes, was a spacious circus, surrounded by plane trees, covered with ivy. Between these were planted box and bay trees, mingling their shade. The inward circular walks were perfumed with roses. A thousand different and fantastic shapes were given to the box, that bordered the straight and winding alleys that intersected the grounds. At the end of one of these walks was an alcove of white marble, shaded with vines and supported by four pillars.

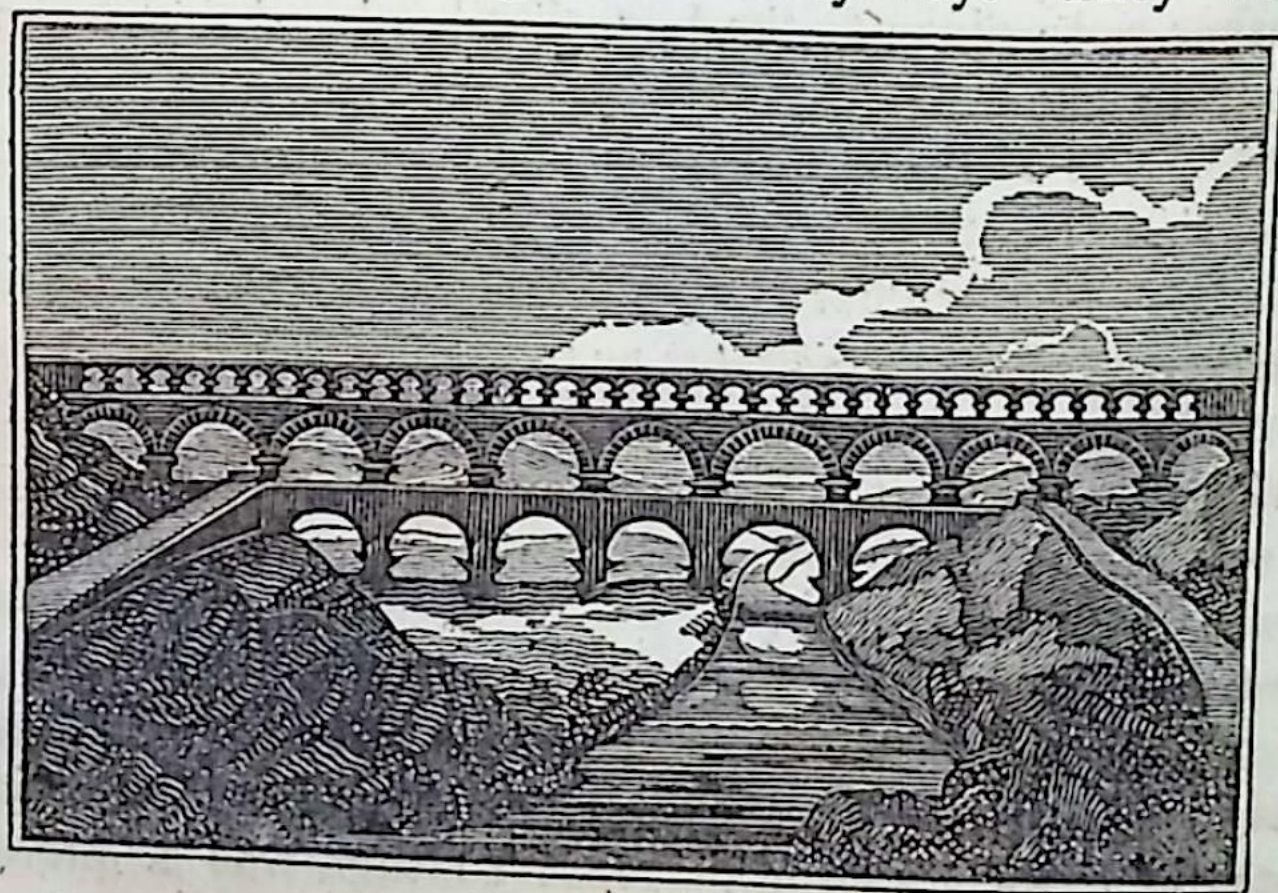
15. A fountain here emptied itself into a marble basin, contrived with so much art as to be always full without overflowing. Sometimes Pliny supped here with his friends, and then the basin served for a table, the larger vessels being placed about the margin, and the smaller ones swimming about in the form of little boats and water fowl.

16. In front of the alcove, stood a summer house of exquisite marble, with projecting doors which opened into a green inclosure. Next to this was a private recess, furnished with a couch, and overshadowed by a spreading vine which reached to the top. Here also, a fountain rose and instantly disappeared. In different

14. Circus? 15. Fountain? Basin? 16. Summer house?
Other ornaments?

parts of the walks were several marble seats, and throughout the whole circus were small rills refreshing the verdure of the scene.

17. It was not till the year 441 after its foundation, that Rome obtained its supplies of water by means of aqueducts. They afterwards became so numerous, that it has been calculated they furnished the city about five hundred thousand hogsheads every day. They were



Roman Aqueduct.

built of brick, and were sometimes thirty, forty or even sixty miles in length. The water was conveyed to reservoirs, and thence distributed through metal pipes

17. Aqueducts? Their length? Quantity of water carried daily to the city? Remains?

over the town in great abundance. Only three aqueducts now remain for modern Rome; yet so pure are the sources from which they draw their supplies, that no city can boast of such clear and healthful water.

18. Great attention was paid to ornament, in the erection of the aqueducts. One built by Agrippa, when ædile under Augustus, contained one hundred and thirty reservoirs, and five hundred fountains, adorned with statues and columns. Remains of many others at this day bear witness to their beauty and convenience.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Military affairs of the Romans. Division of the army. The Imperial Eagle. Music. Arms. Dress. Military rewards. Crowns. The Triumph. Naval affairs. The war galley. Commerce.

1. You know that the Romans were continually engaged in wars. Their military affairs, therefore, occupied most of the attention of the most distinguished citizens. According to the Roman laws, every free-born citizen was a soldier, and bound to serve in the army at any period from the age of seventeen to that of forty-six.

2. The Roman forces were divided into legions, each

18. Aqueduct built by Agrippa?

1. What is said of the military affairs? 2. Divisions of the army? The Eagle?

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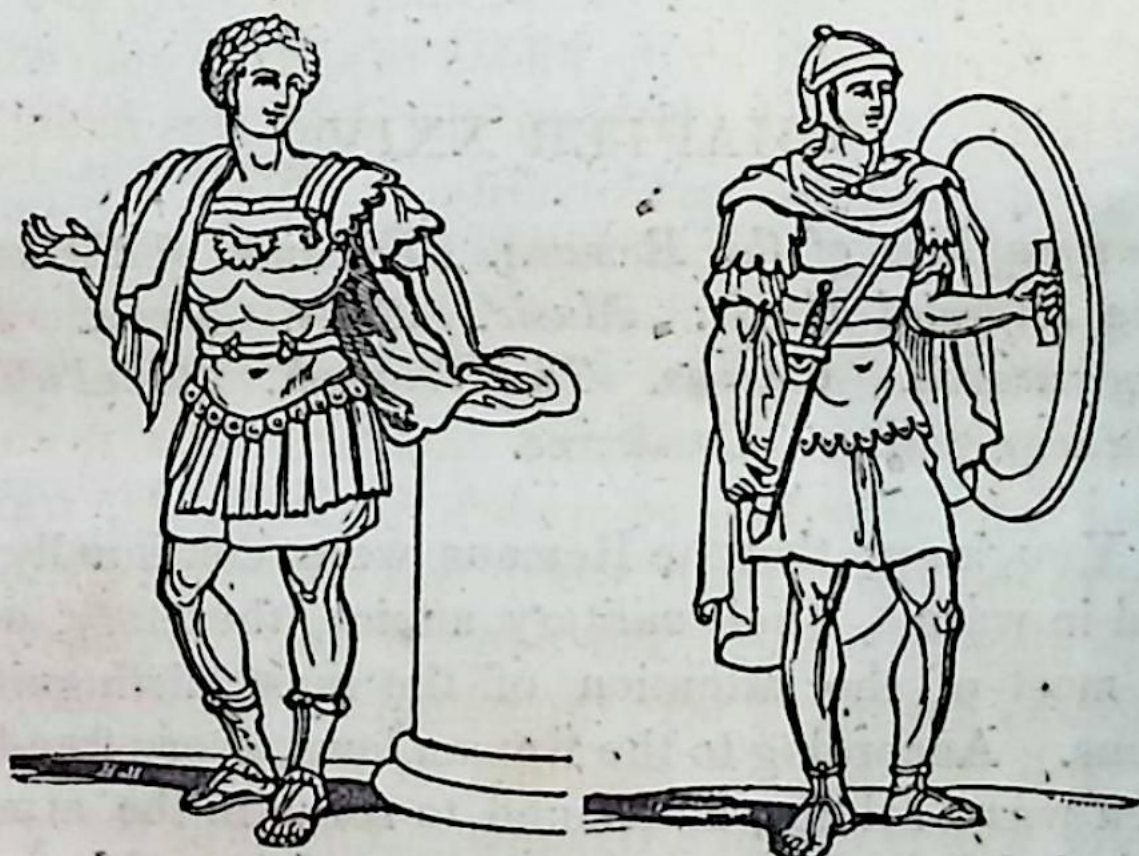
2. The Roman forces were divided into legions, each

18. Aqueduct built by Agrippa?

1. What is said of the military affairs? 2. Divisions of the army? The Eagle?

of which consisted of three thousand foot soldiers, and three hundred horsemen. The standard of the legion was the Imperial Eagle. It was made of gilt metal, was borne on a spear by an officer of rank, and was regarded by the soldiers with a reverence which approached to devotion. The cavalry carried pennons, on which the initials of the emperor or of the legion were embroidered in letters of gold.

3. The only instrument of martial music, among the Romans, was the brazen trumpet. Some of the soldiers



General.

Soldier.

were armed with light javelins, and others with a heavier weapon of a similar description. All however carried

3. Instruments of martial music? Weapons? Dress?

shields and short swords, which they wore on the right side. They were dressed in a metal cuirass, with an under covering of cloth, which was generally red, and hung loose to the knee. On the head they wore brazen helmets, ornamented with flowing tufts of horse hair. The uniform of the generals was an open scarlet mantle.

4. The cavalry wore a coat of mail, of brazen or steel scales, or of chain-work, sometimes plated with gold. Under this they wore a close garment which reached to their buskins. They rode without stirrups, and their saddles were merely cloths folded to suit the convenience of the rider. The discipline of the army was maintained with great strictness and severity.

5. Rewards of various kinds were held out to those who distinguished themselves by an extraordinary exploit. The mural crown was presented to him, who, in the assault, first scaled the ramparts of a town. A soldier who saved his comrade's life in battle, was entitled to the civic crown, which was thought a distinction of the highest honor. The general who conquered in a battle was decorated with the triumphal laurel leaf.

6. But the highest ambition of every Roman commander was to obtain a triumph. This was the gift of the senate, and was only granted on occasions of splendid victory. When decreed, the general returned to Rome,

4. Dress of the cavalry? 5. Rewards of the army? Crowns.
6—9. Describe the triumph of a victorious general.

and was appointed to the supreme command of the city on the day of his entry. A sculptured arch was erected, under which the procession was to pass, and scaffoldings were raised for spectators in all the public squares and streets.

7. The procession moved at daylight from beyond the walls of the city. A band of cavalry, with military music, took the lead. They were followed by a train of priests in their sacred robes, with attendants leading to sacrifice a hecatomb of the whitest oxen. Next came chariots laden with spoils, the arms and standard of the conquered, followed by long trains of the captives conducted by lictors.

8. Loud notes on the trumpet then announced the approach of the victor, dressed in a robe of purple, crowned with laurels, and bearing a sceptre of ivory. He rode in a splendid car drawn by four horses, preceded by the Roman eagle, guarded by a troop of cavalry. The most distinguished officers of the army, in their richest dress and trappings, surrounded him; a band of children clothed in white followed, flinging clouds of perfumes and flowers on the air, and singing hymns of praise to the conqueror.

9. Last of all came the victorious army, their weapons wreathed with laurel, and their burnished armour gleaming in the sunshine. Countless multitudes of the citizens lined the streets, and every window and every scaffold-

ing shone with beauty. The procession was greeted on all sides by loud acclamations; joy and revelry reigned in the city; and a scene was displayed of a magnificence and gorgeousness not to be paralleled in modern history.

10. The first vessel of the Roman navy is said to have been built on a model, offered by the capture of a Carthaginian galley. Their ships were roughly and slightly constructed, and though very large, unfit to contend with boisterous and tempestuous weather. They were clumsy and ill-fashioned, with a high stern and sides, and rowed with two or three tiers of oars on different decks. The prows of the ships were armed with iron, usually carved into the shape of some animal's head; the upper deck was surmounted with a movable turret, from which the soldiers could throw their weapons with advantage.

11. The merchant ships of the Romans were of a size, corresponding with the purposes for which they were intended. Before the discovery of the magnet, by which the mariner can now direct his course in safety over the pathless waves, navigation was necessarily confined to the coast. These coasting vessels were considered large, if they reached the burden of fifty tons.

12. Rome was long supplied with the products of the

-
10. First vessel of the Roman navy? Describe the war galley.
11. What is said of the Roman merchant ships? Navigation? Coasting vessels? 12. How was Rome supplied with the products of the east?

east, by the merchants of the maritime states of the Mediterranean. It was not till the conquest of Egypt by Augustus, that the trade became exclusively her own. Of this commerce Alexandria was the centre.



Roman Coasting Vessel.

13. The principal exports into Italy from India consisted of drugs and spices; cotton cloths and muslins, from the coasts of Coromandel and Malabar; of silk from China, and of large quantities of diamonds and pearls from Bengal, and the pearl fisheries near Cape Comorin. From Persia and Arabia, they procured the richest carpets, silks and embroidered stuffs, together with rice and sugar.

13. What were the principal imports into Italy?

CHAPTER XXV.

Shows of wild Beasts. Gladiatorial exhibitions. Other sports. Chariot racing. The circus. Carriages. Private entertainments. Supper rooms. Convivial parties. Luxuries. Theatrical entertainments. Clocks and watches. The fine arts. Books and manner of writing. Costume. Conclusion.

1. THE first amphitheatre erected in Rome, for the shows of wild beasts, and gladiators, was a mere temporary building of wood, probably erected by Julius Cæsar. The Flavian amphitheatre better known by the name of Colisæum, was commenced in the reign of Vespasian, and is supposed to have contained upwards of eighty thousand persons.

2. The wild beasts were secured in dens round the arena in the centre, which was strongly fenced, and surrounded by a canal, to guard the spectators against their attacks. A vast number of wild beasts were made to destroy each other, in these very cruel exhibitions. Eleven thousand are said to have been killed during four months of triumph, in honor of a conquest over the Dacians; and five hundred lions were killed in a few days, on a similar occasion.

1. What is said of the first amphitheatre? 2. Destruction of wild beasts?

3. The first public combats of gladiators took place at Rome, in the close of the fifth century from the foundation of the city. They were exhibited at a funeral. From that period they became frequent on such occasions, and afterwards on days of public festival were considered a material part of the ceremonies. Many times five hundred pairs of these wretched beings have been led to the public games, to sacrifice each other for the amusement of barbarous spectators. They were at first taken from captives in war, or malefactors, afterwards from slaves trained to the profession.

4. They fought with various weapons, some in complete armor, others with only a trident and a net in which they endeavored to entangle their adversary and thus slay him. It is needless to give a minute account of these inhuman butcheries. They were conducted with the most bloody and savage spirit, and are sufficient proofs of the degraded and brutalized condition of the period in which they were tolerated.

5. I will now change the picture, and give you an account of some of the less barbarous amusements of the Romans. Among these were several games of ball, played as among us both with the hand and foot. The young men chiefly engaged in sports in the open air, that would make them more active and vigorous. Box-

3. Gladiatorial combats? 4. Weapons of the gladiators? What is said of these games? 5. Games of the Roman youths?

ing, wrestling and throwing the quoit formed a prominent part of these amusements, but chariot driving took the lead of all others.

6. For the better enjoyment of horse and chariot-races, there was an enclosed course immediately adjoining the city, called the circus. It was rather more than a mile in circumference, and was surrounded with seats and three tiers of galleries. In the centre was a barrier of twelve feet in breadth and four feet high, around which the race was performed; and at one end was a triumphal arch, through which the successful charioteer drove, followed by the shouts and applause of the assembly.

7. Four chariots usually started together, the drivers of which were distinguished by dresses of different colors. Each color had its particular partisans, who betted largely on the success of their favorite. These sports were exceedingly popular, and repeated in endless succession.

8. Of the form of carriages in use among the Romans, we have no precise description. They were of various kinds, open and covered, chairs and couches, borne on poles by slaves in livery. The couch was furnished with pillows and a mattrass, and with feet of silver or gold, to support it when set down. There was also a kind of

6. The circus? 7. The chariots? Their drivers? 8. What is said of the form of the Roman carriages?

close litters, drawn by mules, and of carriages on two and four wheels, painted of various colors, and highly ornamented.

9. The horses were yoked to the carriage, by means of a curved cross-bar passing over their necks, and were directed by bridles and reins, which were sometimes of embroidered silk with gold bits. Besides mules and horses, many other animals were occasionally used in carriages, such as dogs, goats and deer, and even bears, leopards, lions and tigers. But this of course was merely for a whimsical amusement, and not for real service.

10 When the Romans were poor and simple, they lived chiefly on milk and vegetables, with a coarse kind of pudding made of flour and water. But as they began to grow powerful, and to conquer the neighboring nations, they became acquainted with the luxuries of the people they subdued, and introduced them into their own state. As they found in Greece models of the fine arts, so Asia furnished them with new and numerous sources of pleasure, in the gratification of their senses.

11. In the later days of the republic, great attention was paid to the arts of the cook, and various apartments were constructed in the houses of the rich, for the enter

9. How were the horses managed? What other animals were sometimes used? 10. Early living of the Romans? Introduction of luxuries? 11. Supper rooms of the emperors? Tables?

tainment of company. The supper rooms of some of the emperors were hung with cloths of gold and silver, enriched with jewels. Tables were made for them of fine gold, and couches with frames of massive silver. The Romans always reclined on these couches to take their meals.

12. At great entertainments, the supper room was hung with flowers, and the guests were crowned with garlands. The floor was generally bare, though richly ornamented; and the ceiling was inlaid with a fret-work of gold and ivory. Scented oil was used for lighting the apartments, and massive carved lamps of figured bronze reflected their brilliancy on the gay and beautiful scene.

13. Some of the more voluptuous and degraded of the Roman emperors, in the decay of the republic, were most extravagant and ridiculous in providing rare dishes for their table. The livers and brains of small birds, the heads of parrots and pheasants, and the tongues of peacocks and nightingales, formed a part of their daily food. But the most luxurious dish that graced the table of the Romans was an entire boar, roasted and stuffed with game and poultry.

14. How miserable must have been the condition of the people, whose masters could lavish their wealth, in such wanton and disgraceful indulgence of their meanest

12. Ornaments of the supper room? 13. Costly dishes of the Roman emperors? 14. What is related in this paragraph?

appetites! On one occasion, the senate was assembled to consult on the best mode of dressing an immense turbot, which had been presented to the emperor. In our time, a council of cooks might have been called on an affair of so much importance, but it would hardly have been a subject to bring before the rulers of the people. The Romans, however, would have been less rapidly enslaved and degraded, if their emperor and senate had always been employed as innocently, as in discussing the most desirable manner of dressing a fish.

15. Theatrical entertainments were first introduced into Rome, in the year of the city 391. They were originally little more than dances, to the sound of the flute. It was more than an hundred years, before the drama attained to much dignity or excellence. Actors were always held in contempt, but were enabled from the patronage they received to accumulate large fortunes. Theatres were at first built in the villages in the vicinity, and the first permanent edifice of this kind in the city was built of stone, and calculated to contain forty thousand spectators.

16. The use of such clocks, and watches, as we have at present, was unknown to the Romans. The sundial was introduced 440 years after the building of the city.

15. When were theatrical exhibitions introduced at Rome? What is said of them? Of actors? Theatres? 16. Clocks and watches? Sundials?

About a century afterwards, a kind of water clock was introduced, which was contrived with much ingenuity, and answered all purposes for the measurement of time.

17. The fine arts were unknown in Rome, till after the sixth century of her existence, when they were introduced by the successful captains of her armies, from the nations they had conquered. After a taste for the arts had been thus formed, large enclosed galleries were built around the mansions of the rich, and were adorned with the finest specimens of painting and sculpture.

18. In the dwellings of the most affluent patricians, these galleries also contained splendid libraries, which were open to the inspection of the learned and the curious. Collections of books were then of course very rare, on account of the great expense and difficulty of transcribing them. They were sometimes written on parchment, but more frequently on a paper, made from the leaves of a plant called papyrus. The leaves were pasted together at the ends, and then made up into a roll; which was enclosed in a covering of skin or silk, fastened with strings or clasps.

19. Writing was performed with a reed, split and pointed like our pen, and dipped in ink. Matters not intended for preservation were usually written with a pointed instrument on tables spread with wax. When

17. What is said of the fine arts? 18. Libraries? Books? Paper? 19. Writing? Letters?

letters were sent forward for delivery, they were perfumed, and tied with a silken thread, the ends of which were sealed with common wax.

20. The usual garments of the Romans were the toga and the tunic; the former a loose woollen robe, of a semi-circular form and without sleeves; the latter, a close white garment worn when abroad under the toga, but alone in the house. The men usually went bareheaded. For the feet the usual coverings were the buskin and the sandal. The buskin reached about half way up to the leg; the sandal was a mere sole, fastened to the foot by straps and buckles.

21. I have now told you all that I can tell you at present; about the history, the manners and customs, and all other matters relating to the ancient Romans. You shall now hear a few stories of Venice, another magnificent and famous city of Italy, which has been the scene of very great events, and which is in its decay still visited, with great interest, by strangers from all parts of the world.

20. Usual garments of the Romans? 21. What is said of Venice?

CHAPTER XXVI.

Venetia. The Rialto. Remains of St. Mark. Crusades. War with Dalmatia. Pestilence. New Crusade. Siege of Constantinople. Bold attack of the Greeks. The city taken. Spoils. War with Genoa. Marco Polo. Genoa.

1. WHEN the northern barbarians, from the year 452, invaded the sunny plains of Italy, the rich inhabitants of that portion of it, anciently named Venetia, sought refuge in the marshes called Lagune, at the extremity of the Adriatic. A very large number of people finally collected here, and supported themselves by fishing, making salt, and by commerce. In the year 809 the Venetians made choice of the island of the Rialto, transported thither all their riches, and built the city of Venice, the capital of their republic.

2. Twenty years afterwards, they stole from Alexandria the remains of St. Mark, and chose him the patron of their state. Feasting, music and solemn processions attended the arrival of these sacred relics, and the city was solemnly consigned to his protection. The saint himself, or his lion, was blazoned on the coins of the state and on the standards.

1. What is said of the origin of Venice? 2. Relics of St. Mark?

3. Towards the end of the eleventh century, all Europe was engaged in a war with the infidels for the recovery of the Holy Sepulchre. In this enterprise Venice took a very conspicuous part. It is said that she sent a fleet of two hundred sail on the expedition; and she obtained for her services a rich reward.

4. A war with Dalmatia, in the year 1171, led to an event of very melancholy interest. A fleet of one hundred and twenty well-manned ships sailed against the enemy, and on receiving his tokens and promises of submission, they retired into winter quarters at Scio. Here they were soon after exposed to the ravages of a dreadful pestilence, which swept off most of the troops, and left only a handful of soldiers capable of bearing arms. The camp was not merely a hospital, it was a tomb.

5. It was necessary to burn a great number of the ships, from the want of sailors to man them. On the return voyage, many of the remaining ships were wrecked, abandoned and destroyed. The splendid armament, that had lately sailed in such pride and gorgeousness on the waters of the Adriatic, now crept along its coasts in misery and meanness. Every family in the city went into mourning for a father or brother. But a still greater calamity was in reserve. The plague had been brought

3. War with the infidels? Fleet of Venice? 4. Pestilence?
5. Disasters that followed?

from Scio, and broke out in the crowded population of Venice. A thousand disasters followed in its train, and the destruction of the growing state seemed to have approached

6. The pestilence however passed away, and prosperity again shone upon the mourning city. In 1198 a new crusade was preached in Europe, and Venice furnished the vessels to carry the adventurers to the Holy Land. Finding themselves too poor to pay the freight they had agreed upon, they offered their military services to the republic, as a return for their ships. They were accepted, and the allied force bore up to the siege of Constantinople.

7. While lying in the port of this city, a bold attempt of the Greeks nearly destroyed the Venetian armament. One midnight the fleet was at anchor, when huge floating masses of fire, covering the whole breadth of the gulf, were seen rapidly approaching their station. The troops ran to arms, and the ships were speedily manned from the shore. Meanwhile the cause of the alarm had been discovered. It was seen that seventeen large hulks, filled with combustibles, had been fired by the Greeks, and left to drift with a fair wind upon the hostile ships.

8. The scene was most terrific. Instant destruction threatened the whole fleet. With the ruin of their ships,

6. New crusade? What led to the siege of Constantinople
7 Bold enterprise of the Greeks? 8. Its issue?

the ruin of the army had been inevitable. It was a moment that called for the exercise of all skill and courage. Leaping into their boats, the intrepid mariners grappled with the fire-ships, and dragged them out of the port. The camp continued in arms till morning, but no further attempt was made to disturb its repose. The only loss suffered from this great peril was that of a single merchant vessel.

9. The proud city of Constantinople was taken, and the hostile army loaded themselves with its spoils. The sanctuary of St. Sophia, and the altar of the Virgin, which blazed with gems and jewelry, were broken and robbed. The rich gildings and carvings of the churches, and the sacred plate, were shattered and carried away. Books, marbles, pictures, statues, obelisks and bronzes, treasures which had been gathering for years from Egypt, Greece and Rome, perished beneath the fatal fury of the invaders.

10. Of this spoil Venice received a large share, in silks, tapestries, costly vases, gems wrought into drinking vessels; crowns of solid gold studded with pearls; rings and brooches set with precious stones; and splendid carbuncles, which were placed on the high altar at St. Mark's, blazing with their own light and scattering darkness by their beams.

9. What followed the conquest? 10. Did Venice share in the spoils?

11. In the century that followed, Venice was engaged in several wars with the rival city of Genoa. This beautiful city was already the admiration of travellers, for the architecture of its superb palaces. An accidental meeting of her fleet with that of Venice, in 1293, lighted up a war which destroyed a vast quantity of wealth, and for seven years stained the waters of the Mediterranean with blood.

12. In 1298, Lamba Doria, the admiral of the Genoese, met a superior Venetian force at the extremity of the Adriatic Gulf. Undismayed at the appearance of ninety-five hostile vessels, this commander detached a small number of his own galleys, with orders not to engage till they could bear down with a favorable wind in the heat of the action. When the two fleets were well engaged, the shock of the fresh and unexpected galleys could not be withstood. The Venetians were completely vanquished. They lost a large number of their ships, and seven thousand of their soldiers were taken prisoners.

13. Among these prisoners was Marco Polo, a very celebrated Venetian traveller. It is perhaps to his captivity, that the world have been indebted for the very interesting account of his adventures. He had been absent for forty years in countries before unexplored, and had returned from the Tartan court of Kublai Khan,

11. Genoa? Meeting of the fleets in 1293? 12. Lamba Doria? His battle with the Venetians? 13. What is said of Marco Polo?

to relate the wonders of extreme Asia. His experience in sea affairs had gained him the command of a galley, and in this unfortunate action he had been wounded and taken prisoner.

14. His captivity continued through the course of four years. To beguile the tediousness of this confinement, he undertook to commit his adventures to paper. Owing to the surprise and admiration which these excited, the traveller obtained his liberty.

15. The two republics of Venice and Genoa were always rivals, and were frequently at war. In the month of July, 1798, the fleets of the rival cities met before Antium. A fearful storm was raging at the time, but the war of the elements could not tame the violence of human passions. The battle continued during the very height of the tempest: and the Genoese were vanquished. A severe war followed. Venice was reduced to great extremities, and offered the most humiliating sacrifices to purchase peace. They were refused, and when, by a change in the fortunes of war, Genoa was in her turn besieged, and obliged to surrender, the two republics were very willing to make an accommodating treaty.

14. His captivity? 15. War with Genoa? Battle of 1798?

CHAPTER XXVII.

Government. The council. The Tribunal of Three. Their movements. Story of the two Foscari. Venice continues to prosper. Historical summary. The conspiracy of 1618. Present state of Venice. Reflections.

1. WHOLE volumes would be required to relate the history of Venice, with the details of her wars, and her foreign and domestic affairs. I must pass over the war of Chiozza, the three wars with Milan, the destruction of the Venetian flotilla, and the numerous interesting events, that you may some day read about in larger books than mine.

2. The government of Venice was one of the most despotic that a nation ever endured. It was full of mystery, wickedness, and cruelty. The sovereign of the state was called the doge. He was at first chosen by the people, and in the earlier periods of the state they also defined his powers. A council of four hundred and eighty of the chief men was afterwards appointed, which governed the republic and the doge with a rod of iron.

3. At one time this council appointed a tribunal of three members, who were invested with absolute powers

1. What is said of Venetian history? 2. Government? The doge? Council? 3. The tribunal of three? Their powers?

They were at liberty to punish by fine, imprisonment, by open or secret death, at their pleasure. The keys of the numerous dungeons beneath the level of the canals, in the walls and under the leaden roofs of the palaces, were in their keeping. They were also masters of the treasury, and could spend the public money as they pleased, without giving any account.

4. The movements of this body were shrouded in perfect silence and secrecy. They employed spies in all directions, to hear and report every thing that occurred, which seemed in the least degree suspicious. Frequent assassinations were committed by their order. The Venetian, who dropped an expression of ill will to the council in the morning, might be in his grave by night-fall. Or if not murdered, he would be hurried away to some dungeon, from which he might only be carried to a less miserable burial in death.

5. The story of the old doge Francesco Foscari will give you some idea of the power and policy of the council. He was a venerable old man, who had directed the affairs of the republic for thirty-four years, with great spirit and success. By imparting his own ambition to his fellow citizens, he had excited them to the conquest of a part of Lombardy. The people loved and respected him, and on this account the council hated and determined to punish him.

6. They could effect this only by loading him with domestic affliction. His son Jacopo Foscari was accused of having received a bribe from a foreign duke. On this accusation, he was put to the rack. A confession was thus wrung from him, and the aged father was obliged to pass the sentence of banishment, upon his only surviving son. Five years afterwards he was again unjustly accused of procuring an assassination; he was again tortured, and the period of his exile was prolonged.

7. Soon after his innocence was completely established, and Jacopo entreated his judges to allow him to return to Venice. His love of country was unbroken by injustice, torture and infamy. He had only one wish, one hope, to return to the spot of his birth and die there. Life was misery to him, passed any where but in the home of his heart. After six years of useless entreaty, he wrote a letter to the duke of Milan, begging him to intercede with the Venetian senate and attempt to procure his recall.

8. This letter he purposely left open, in a place where the spies of the council would certainly discover it. The contents were made known to this body, and Jacopo was summoned to Venice, to answer for the heavy crime of soliciting a foreign power to intercede with his native government. He declared that he was guilty of the

6. Jacopo? 7. His feelings and conduct in exile? 8—9. The conclusion of the story of Foscari?

offence, but only for the purpose of returning once more, even as a criminal and in chains, to his birth-place, the city of his pride and affection. Again he was tortured, condemned and banished; but, soon after reaching the place of his exile, he died.

9. The old doge continued to perform the duties of his office, in sorrow and feebleness. Malice had not yet done all that it intended, though it marred the happiness of life, when it so cruelly robbed the parent of his child. One more injury was to be suffered. On the pretence that he was too old to discharge the duties of his office, he was compelled to retire from it. To the last moment he retained the affections of the people, and his own dignity of character. But the blow was too heavy to be borne, and the dethroned prince died, while the bell was tolling for the inauguration of his successor.

10. We might well suppose that, among a people thus governed, there would be frequent revolutions. There was never a state, whose rulers were more execrably tyrannical. But notwithstanding the existence of this government, and in spite of its long wars, Venice continued to flourish and prosper. Such was its power, towards the close of the fifteenth century, that this little state excited the jealousy and perhaps the fear of the greater European nations.

10. What is said of the prosperity of the city ?

11. Conspiracies are very frequent in the history of Venice. But the means, which the council possessed, of knowing every man's mind by their innumerable spies, enabled them to crush almost every revolt at the outset. A plot was once headed by Marino Faliero the doge himself, which was laid for the entire destruction of the council. It was discovered, and the doge perished upon the scaffold. His body was conveyed by torchlight in a gondola, unattended by the usual ceremonies, to the church of San Paolo, and buried in its outer wall in a coffin of stone.

12. Another conspiracy in 1617 is very famous in history. In the summer of that year, Jacques Pierre, a Norman, who had passed his youth in piratical enterprises, offered himself at the arsenal of Venice in search of employment. He was hired in some petty office, and a few days after his arrival, he went before the council, and exposed a pretended conspiracy. In this plot, he alleged that he was himself the chief agent; and that the object of it was to fire the city, to seize and massacre the nobles, to overthrow the existing government, and transfer the state to the Spanish crown.

13. The council kept Pierre in their service about ten months, waiting for the maturity of the plot. At the end of this time, he was seized, while employed on his

11. Conspiracies? Of Marino Faliero? 12. Jacques Pierre? His communication to the council? 13. The fate of Pierre?

duties in the fleet, and was drowned without even sufficient delay for prayer and religious confession. About three hundred French and Spanish naval commanders, in the Venetian service, were at the same time delivered to the executioner.

14. The evidence of Pierre had been kept secret, and the people were entirely ignorant of the cause which led to these frequent executions. A rumor was spread abroad that Venice had been in great danger, and had escaped; but nothing was known beyond vague and idle surmises. In later times many reasons have been found, to believe that the story of the conspiracy was entirely false, and that this great sacrifice of human life was altogether idle and causeless.

15. We have seen that Venice grew in power and wealth, in spite of the tyranny which oppressed her. Towards the end of the fifteenth century, she was rich, powerful and honored. Her people were the most civilized on earth, and were devoted to the sciences and fine arts. But afterwards the commerce of Venice declined, and the Turks deprived her of her possessions in Greece. From this time she ceased to take part in the great events that were going on in Europe, and was satisfied with preserving her old constitution, and her territory which yet contained three million of inhabitants.

14. What is said of the story of the conspiracy? 15. Venice at the close of the 15th century? Since that period?

16. In the wars which followed the French revolution towards the close of the last century, this proud city fell a victim to the French power. Since 1798, Venice, with its territory, has formed a part of the kingdom of Austria; and, with the history of this kingdom, is the tale of the city of St. Mark to be blended, till some future revolution shall restore her to independence.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Cosmo de Medici the merchant. His successors. Wars. Cosmo the prince. Story of his sons. Reflections. Later history of Florence. Verona. The amphitheatre. History. Other Italian cities. Reflections.

1. ANOTHER celebrated city of Italy is the beautiful Florence. Its fine situation, its peculiar architecture, its treasures of painting and sculpture, and the striking events of its history, make this city an object of the greatest interest. In the confusion of the middle ages, it rose to a height of wealth and power, which placed it far above all the surrounding cities.

2. The most interesting portion of Florentine history is that, which was marked by the family of the Medici. This family originally consisted of merchants, who by

16. Venice since 1798?

1. What is said of Florence? Its stand in the middle ages?

2. The family of Medici? The Duke of Athens?

their pursuits had acquired wealth and importance. They conducted with much generosity and wisdom, and soon became very popular and influential. This influence they exerted, to raise the duke of Athens to the government of Florence. The duke was ungrateful, and the Medici with some other families formed a conspiracy, which ended in his ruin.

3. Cosmo de Medici died in 1464, the private subject of a republic. He was more wealthy than any king in Europe, and expended larger sums in works of taste, charity and learning, than all the kings, princes and states of that or the subsequent age, excepting the individuals of his own family. He established religious institutions, with a splendid generosity. His private buildings were equally sumptuous. No palace in Europe at that period exceeded his at Florence.

4. With all this public expense and grandeur, in private he was modest, affable and unassuming, and in his person plain and modest. Cosmo was succeeded by his son Peter, and Peter by his children Lorenzo and Giuliano. The latter was soon murdered, and Lorenzo died at the age of fifty-four years, eminent like his ancestors for his liberality and public munificence.

5. The tranquillity of the state was for many years

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3. When did Cosmo de Medici die? What is said of him?
4. His private life? His successors? 5. Wars? Popular government?

disturbed, by wars with Venice and Genoa. In the course of these commotions, the people assumed the government of Florence, but this government was soon reversed, and the family of the Medici was restored to the throne.

6. Cosmo, the second of that name, now succeeded to the ducal throne. He held this position with honor for thirty-eight years, giving encouragement to literature and the fine arts, with a spirit which proved him worthy of his name. A melancholy story is related of this prince, which shows somewhat of the savage spirit, which seems to have marked the European character during the middle ages.

7. The sons of this monarch were named John and Garcia. The latter was of a fierce and vindictive spirit, and in a quarrel one day with his brother, stabbed him to the heart with a dagger. The father laid the murder to his charge, but the youth denied it. In those times, there was an idle superstition, that if a murderer was carried into the presence of his victim, the dead body would bleed at his approach. The king led his son into the room where his murdered brother was lying, and it is said that drops of blood immediately flowed from the corpse.

8. This must have been merely accidental, or a con-

6. Cosmo? 7. The story related in this paragraph? 8 The issue of the story?

trivance of the father. More oppressed by this apparent testimony of his guilt, than by his real criminality, the boy threw himself at his father's feet and confessed the charge. The father solemnly desired him to prepare for death, adding, that he ought to think himself happy, in losing a life he was unworthy to enjoy, by the hands of him who gave it. He then unsheathed his dagger, and plunged it into the bosom of his son.

9. A more melancholy tale than this is nowhere to be found in history. You have read of the elder Brutus, who presided as judge at the trial of his son, and condemned him to death. To preserve the honor of his daughter, Virginius devoted her to perish by his own hand. But where do the annals even of Italian crime present a more gloomy picture, than that of a brother raising his hand against a brother, and a father taking the life of a child?

10. Under the grand duke who succeeded Cosmo, the arts and sciences continued to flourish at Florence, and the wise and skilful policy of the Medici continued to preside over the councils of the state. The family of the Medici became extinct in 1737, when the Grand Dutchy passed to another house. Since that time it has been a republic, and a kingdom, and a part of the French empire. It is now the seat of a duke.

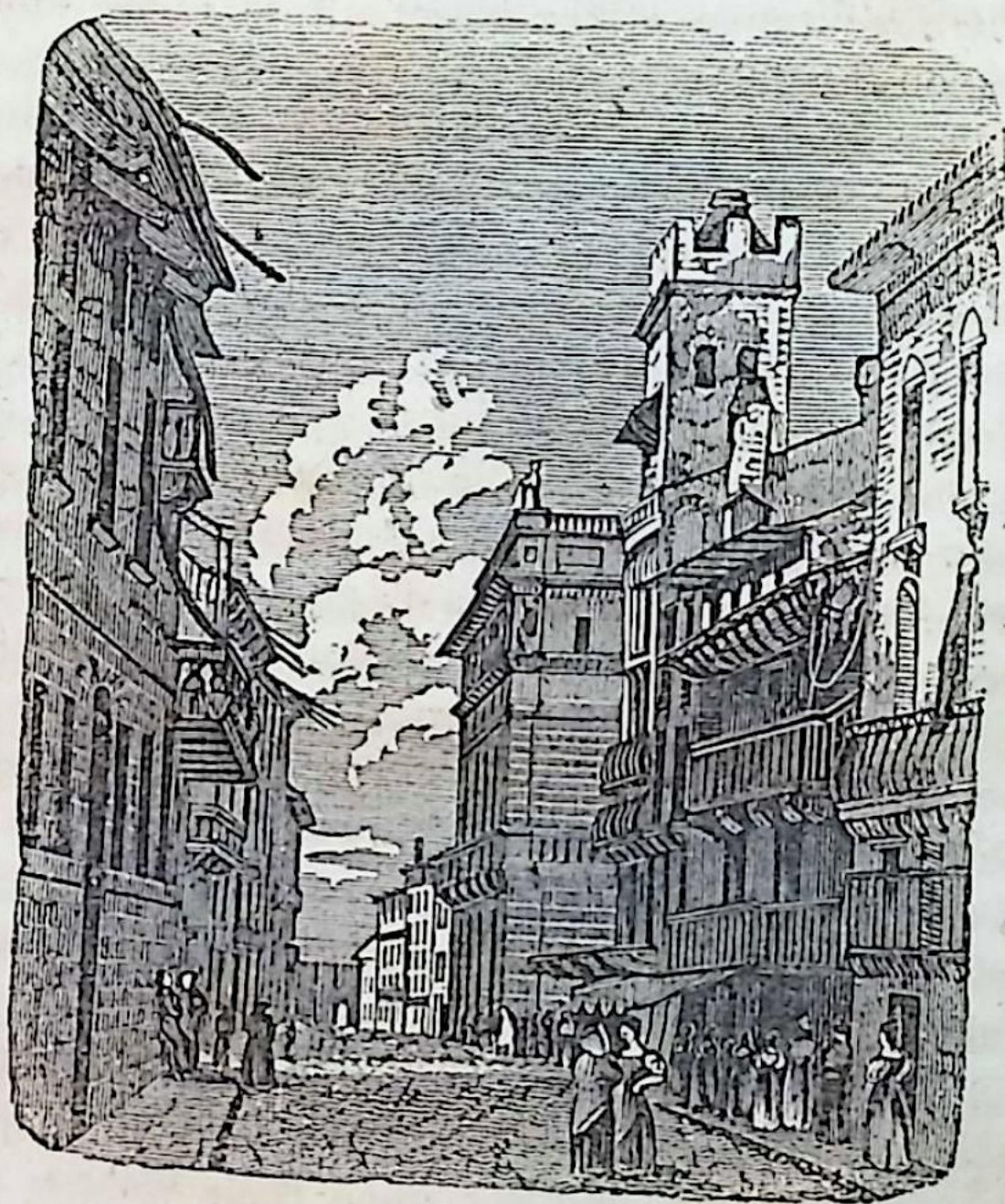
11. Verona is an ancient city, in a very pleasant and

picturesque situation, divided into two parts by the river Adige, which is crossed by four stone bridges. You may judge something of the antique style of building, and the appearance of the streets of this city, by the picture on the following page. This city has been the birth-place of many distinguished men.

12. One of the most interesting remains of Roman architecture, now existing, is the amphitheatre, said to have been built by Domitian. It was large enough to hold twenty-two thousand spectators. The seats and different passages, the stair-cases and galleries remain entire, the whole consisting of vast blocks of marble, of two stories. For a time in the middle ages, Verona was free, but it was afterwards under the rule of different masters, and in 1405 it was conquered by Venice.

13. But I cannot in such a little book, tell you about all the cities of Italy. You will read at some other time of the history of Milan, Pisa, Genoa, Naples and many other delightful places, and follow them from their origin to their decline, always with interest, but often with sorrow and pity. Compare their past splendor with their present decay, and you will learn that the happiness and permanence of a state rest upon the virtue and intelligence of the people, and not upon their wealth, power or magnificence.

12. The amphitheatre of Domitian? History? 13. What comparison is made in this paragraph?



Verona.

14. The time may come, when the free cities of our own happy country may accumulate unbounded wealth, and lavish it on the productions of art, or in the luxuries of a corrupt society. Foreign manners, tastes, and principles may obtain a root in our soil, and overshadow the humble, and simple virtues which our fathers planted and nurtured. The people may abuse the power which they possess, or may willingly surrender it to the artful, designing and ambitious, who will flatter and fawn upon them, only to complete their ruin.

15. But if some modern Tarquin, or Cæsar, may at any time attempt to trample on the liberties of our country, we may not hope that the dagger of a patriot may be ready to be plunged in his bosom; but we may, and ought to, hope that the supremacy of justice will teach him, that the rights of society are to be preserved, according to the laws of society. He should be tried before the tribunals of his country, and the task, that in Rome fell upon the elder and the younger Brutus, should be discharged by the public executioner.

14. Reflections? 15. Concluding observations?

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Fine arts. Leonardo da Vinci. Anecdote. Pietro Perugino. Michael Angelo. Raphael Sanzio. Gentile Bellino. His adventures at the court of the Sultan. Titian. Corregio. Julio Romano. Francesco Mazzola. Tintoretto. The Caracci. Domenichino. Guido Reni. Caravaggio. Salvator Rosa.

1. I AM now going to tell you something of the fine arts of modern Italy; and of the painters and sculptors, who have gained immortal fame for themselves, and shed immortal glory upon their country. It is for these works that the cities of Italy are now places of pilgrimage, to all who have a taste for the arts, and a power to gratify it.

2. It is probable that painting was cultivated in Italy at a very early period, but little is known of it in its first stages. It was not till after the reduction of Greece to the Roman power, that Rome became the centre of honor, employment and profit to artists.

3. Of the most celebrated artists of Italy, one of the earliest was Leonardo da Vinci, a native of Florence. He was eminent in a variety of accomplishments; being a painter, poet, sculptor, architect, musician and man

1. What is said of the fine arts? 2. Painting in Italy? 3. What is said of Leonardo da Vinci?

of science. His success in every thing he undertook was wonderful. His paintings are now dispersed throughout Europe.

4. One of the most beautiful of his works is 'The Last Supper,' which was executed for the fathers of a convent in Milan. This picture is said to be unsurpassed in dignity and beauty. An anecdote connected with it is perhaps worthy of being mentioned. The head of Judas had been left unfinished, from the difficulty of finding a suitable model for the treacherous disciple. This delay in finishing the piece induced the prior of the convent, to importune the painter for its completion. To punish him for his impertinence, Da Vinci clapped the head of the prior on the shoulders of Judas, and the picture was ready for him.

5. Da Vinci afterwards left Italy, and went to Paris. Here he was favorably received by the king Francis I., and was visited by him in his last sickness. The painter attempted to rise from his couch, to thank him for this mark of kindness. At the moment the monarch embraced him, and was assisting him to lie down again, Da Vinci became speechless, and died in his arms, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, A. D. 1520.

6. Among the fellow students of this great artist was Pietro Perugino, the tutor of Raphael. He was born

4. The last supper? Anecdote? 5. What more is said of Da Vinci? 6. Of Pietro Perugino?

of poor parents, and at a very early age received instruction of a poor painter, who taught him little, and abused him a great deal. As soon as he was able to procure his own livelihood, he went to Florence, and placed himself under suitable masters. He became celebrated for the graceful air of his female heads, and was principally employed in adorning convents and churches. Unfortunately he was very distrustful and avaricious. Wherever he went, he carried with him a box containing his gold. Being robbed of this treasure, the loss so depressed his spirits, that it occasioned his death.

7. The most sublime of painters and sculptors is Michael Angelo Buonarotti, who was born in the year 1474, in a village of Tuscany. Under the patronage of Lorenzo de Medici, he erected an academy of the Fine Arts at Florence, and is considered the head of the school which was founded there. Michael Angelo delighted in the grand and the terrible, in bold and sublime conceptions. He loved solitude, and used to say that Painting was jealous, and required the whole man to herself. When asked why he did not marry, his reply was—"Painting is my wife, and my works are my children."

8. His greatest work, which is the wonder and the

7. When and where was Michael Angelo born? What observations of his are mentioned? 8. His greatest painting?

triumph of art, is the picture of The Last Judgment. It contains upwards of three hundred figures, many of which are larger than life. It is the most sublime and awful production of human genius.

9. The character of Michael Angelo's sculpture has often been criticised. His style is lofty and original, but sometimes too exaggerated and unnatural. His works surprise and startle, but do not delight us. Among his most celebrated pieces of sculpture, are his statues of Daybreak and Night, which are said to be grand and mysterious almost beyond conception. His statue of Moses, on the tomb of Julius II. at Rome, represents a commanding being, who inspires us with awe, but not with sympathy or interest.

10. Michael Angelo obtained the esteem and friendship, of all the sovereign princes of his time. He died at Rome at the age of ninety years. Cosmo de Medici ordered his body to be secretly unburied, and brought to Florence. Here he was reinterred in the church of Santa Croce, where magnificent funeral rites were performed. His tomb is still to be seen there. It is a monument of marble, adorned with figures of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, all by his own hand.

11. Raphael Sanzio; the founder of the Roman school of painting, was a native of Urbino, and after receiving

9. His sculpture? His most celebrated statues? 10. His character? Death? Monument? 11. What is said of Raphael? His works?

a little instruction in the art, he visited Florence to study the works of Michael Angelo and Da Vinci. He was an artist of varied and fervid genius. His works embrace every expression of passion and feeling, that can work in the human mind, or mould the features of the human face. The charm of his painting is his great beauty, and truth to nature. In private life he was universally beloved.

12. It was at Venice, that the art of coloring was first carried to perfection. One of the earliest Venetian painters was Gentile Bellino. This artist, at the request of Mahomet II., the emperor of the Turks, paid a visit to his highness and was very kindly received. He executed various works for the emperor, which were much admired. As the Turks entertained a deep veneration for John the Baptist, Mahomet requested the artist to represent the scene of his death. When the painting was finished, Gentile brought it into the presence of the Grand Seignior, and requested his opinion of its merits.

13. The sultan remarked that the skin of the neck, which was separated from the body, was too high. "because," he added, "the head is no sooner cut off than the skin of the neck shrinks back." To convince him of the truth of this criticism, the sultan ordered the

12. The art of coloring? Gentile Bellino? His visit to Mahomet II.? 13. Cruelty of the sultan? Bellino?

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nead of a slave to be instantly struck off in his presence. The painter was convinced, but was too much terrified to remain longer in the service of so acute a critic. He took his leave as soon as possible, and returned to his native country loaded with presents. The emperor recommended him so highly to the Venetian Senate, that they granted him a pension for life, and the honorary distinction of the order of St. Mark.

14. Titian was born of a noble family, in a province of the Venetian territories. He was distinguished for the brilliancy and beauty of his hues and tints. The most charming lights and shadows of nature fell from his pencil, and in the magic of coloring he stands without a rival. There are fifty pictures of this artist to be seen at Venice, in which four different styles are distinctly visible. In all these we can trace the steps by which he rose to excellence.

15. Corregio comes next before us, rising from the bosom of poverty, without master, or means, or even the advantages of a common education. He had not visited Rome, and had seen none of the master pieces of art. The wonders of ancient painting and sculpture were unknown to him, but he studied the beauties of nature, and broke forth with a splendor of genius almost miraculous. The fame of Raphael tempted him to go to Rome. He stood before the pictures of this great artist, gazing

in silence on them, till he broke forth with the exclamation, "I also am a painter!"

16. The grace and harmony of this artist are wonderful. "Every thing I see," said a celebrated painter on beholding his works half a century afterwards, "astonishes me; particularly the coloring and beauty of the children, who live, breathe and smile, with so much sweetness and vivacity, that we are constrained to sympathize in their enjoyment." It is painful to reflect, that the wonderful genius of Corregio never raised him from poverty and obscurity.

17. His death was a sad one. Having gone to Parma on one occasion, to receive fifty crowns, he was paid in a sort of copper coin, called quadrinos. Overjoyed at what he considered so large a sum, and eager to display his treasure to his wife, he set off on a very sultry day with the load of coin, and carried it to his own residence, twelve miles from the city. The fatigue threw him into a pleurisy, of which he died. Corregio was remarkably original, in all his designs and conceptions. An old French writer observed, that his pencil seems to have been always guided by the hand of an angel.

18. The most eminent of the pupils of Raphael was Julio Romano. During the life time of his master, he painted with him and under his direction, and kept his

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16. His remarkable powers? Remark of a celebrated painter?
 17. Circumstances of his death? Observation of an old French writer?
 18. What is said of Julio Romano? His paintings?

natural taste for the terrible and violent within proper limits. In his early efforts he was only graceful and pleasing, but when he gave himself up to his own imagination; all were astonished by the boldness of his style, the grandeur of his designs, and the fire of his composition. Julio died at Mantua in the year 1546. Most of his best performances are contained in a fine palace near that city built under his direction.

19. Francesco Mazzola flourished at about the same period. He possessed a lively invention, and painted in an easy and graceful style. When the Spaniards entered Rome, and pillaged the city, Mazzola continued at his work as though he had been in entire security. It is said that some soldiers, who entered his house, were so much struck with his courage, as well as with the beauty of his paintings, that they left him uninjured. In his later days he devoted himself to the study of chemistry, in which he lost both his money and his health.

20. Tintoretto, a pupil of Titian, and one of the greatest ornaments of the Venetian school, imitated his master in brilliancy of coloring, and Michael Angelo in grandeur of design. All Venice was filled with his productions. He loved his profession, and seems to have worked for amusement rather than profit. His despatch was wonderful. He died at a very advanced age. His

19. Francesco Mazzola? Anecdote? 20. Tintoretto? His paintings? Character? His daughter?

daughter Maria Tintoretto was one of the most accomplished women of her time, and was celebrated as a painter of portraits. Paul Veronese was a native of Verona, and a rival of Tintoretto. His coloring is fresh and magnificent. Many of his works still remain in the churches and palaces of Venice.

21. Towards the close of the sixteenth century, a new school of painters was founded at Bologna. It is generally called the academy of the Caracci, being founded by three artists of that name. Of the pupils of this school, Domenichino is particularly deserving of mention. He was of a gentle, thoughtful and studious disposition, loving solitude, and patient of labor. When at the academy, he worked so industriously that his fellow students used jestingly to call him the *Ox*, and to say that he labored like that animal at the plough. "The Ox," said his master, "will in time make the ground so fruitful, that painting itself will be fed by what it produces."

22. It was the custom of Domenichino, to assume for the time the passion he was representing. While at his work he was often heard to laugh, weep and talk aloud, so that a stranger would have supposed him out of his senses. In the latter part of his life, he was exposed to the most bitter jealousy and persecution. So great was

21. New school? Its founders? Domenichino? 22 Custom of Domenichino? His death?

25. Many other painters of genius flourished, before the light of the art was extinguished in Italy. The history of Italian painting terminates with Salvator Rosa, a man of wonderful genius, and celebrated also as a musician and poet. His taste was formed from the study of nature, in the wildness of the Appenines. He delighted in scenes of gloomy grandeur and terror, and communicated great interest to his work, by the boldness of his conceptions, and the truth of his representations. He worked for some time in obscurity at Naples, till he was generously assisted and recommended, by a brother artist, to favor and patronage.

26. He removed to Rome, where he established his reputation, and rose to celebrity and wealth. Visiting Florence, he was employed and generously patronised by the members of the Medici family. Returning to Rome, he painted many pictures for the churches in that city, where he died in 1673.

27. On account of his satirical wit, he was excluded from the Roman academy. Some time after, the academy refused admission to another artist, who practised surgery as well as painting. On this rejection Salvator Rosa expressed his surprise, by saying, that it was very unwise in the academy, as they had great need of a surgeon to replace the legs and arms that the members daily dislocated.

25. Salvator Rosa? His early life? 26. Removal to Rome? Progress? 27. Anecdote?

28. Sculpture was never cultivated in Rome, as a native acquirement. The art was practised in that city, only by artists from Greece. One of the most distinguished restorers of the art to modern Italy was Donatello, a Florentine. In the Florence gallery is a celebrated marble statue of St. George, by this artist. He stands upright, his hands resting on the shield before him. Michael Angelo, after admiring this statue for some time in silence, expressed how much he was delighted with it by the exclamation 'March.' It was to another statue of Donatello, that the same great artist exclaimed, "Mark, why don't you speak to me."

29. Torrigiano was a contemporary of Michael Angelo. He executed the monument of Henry V. of England, in Westminster Abbey. His death happened in a very melancholy manner. Having gone to Spain, he was employed by a nobleman to execute a Madonna and infant Christ in marble. The group being finished, two lackeys, loaded with money, were sent to remunerate the artist, and to bring home the work. On opening the bags, Torrigiano found that they contained nothing but brass coin, amounting to a very small value. This disappointment so enraged him, that he took his mallet, broke the image to pieces, and dismissed the lackeys with their load of farthings. Enraged at this insult their

28. Sculpture in Rome? Donatello? Anecdote? 29. Torrigiano? His fate?

master impeached the sculptor as an heretic and infidel, and he was condemned to lose his life by torture. To avoid the horrors of an execution he starved himself to death in prison.

30. The most distinguished name, in the modern history of sculpture, is that of Canova. This artist was born in 1757, and in his youth followed the humble occupation of a stone-cutter. At the age of fourteen, he went to Venice, where, by the benevolence of the fathers of a convent, he was enabled to set up a workshop. After a hard struggle with poverty for fifteen years, he produced his first great work, the monument of Pope Ganganelli, in St. Peter's church. This was followed by a series of beautiful works, which are known and admired in every part of Europe.

31. It is particularly in representing the innocence of childhood, and the grace of beauty, that Canova excels all others, and even himself. His dancing Nymphs, his infant Loves, and his laughing Graces, are beautiful almost beyond imagination. One of his most admired works was a statue of Washington, which was placed in the state house of Raleigh, North Carolina, and was there almost destroyed by fire in 1831. The death of Canova is a loss that will not soon be made good to Italian art.

30. Canova? His birth and progress? 31. His chief excellence? Washington? His death?

CHAPTER XXIX.

Rome as it is. St. Peter's church. View from its summit. Palm Sunday. The Carnival, Improvisatori. Reflections.

1. You have now read the story of Rome, from its humble origin, to the bright days of its pride and magnificence, and the sad days of its decline and decay. You have read about the fair and beautiful country, in which it is situated, and the splendid cities that rose in the middle ages, almost to rival Rome in the interest of their history, and the beauty of their monuments. But little now remains.

2. Stand with me upon the top of St. Peter's, and look down upon the great city that has so long been the admiration of the world. We have ascended by the broad paved road, that is large enough, to afford a safe passage for the mules and horses, which are continually ascending it, laden with stones and lime. The roof of this church seems like a little city by itself. It is covered with small houses and work-shops, for the laborers who are employed in the never ending repairs of the church.

3. We will go up still higher, ascending the great

1. What is said of Rome? 2. St. Peter's? 3. View from its summit?

dome, and looking down into the fearful depth of the church, upon the human forms, that are creeping about below. They look like emmets, so diminutive and insignificant do they become by the distance! We have now reached the very summit of the dome, and gaze around upon the immense and interesting prospect that is presented to us.

4. A beautiful amphitheatre of hills stretches round on three sides of the blue horizon. Behind, the Apennines are rearing their sullen and snow-crowned summits high into the air. The yellow stream of the Tiber, in its many windings, is gleaming through the waste which it waters; and far, far beyond, the blue bosom of the Mediterranean is bright with the sunbeams. At our feet are the churches and palaces of Rome, the eternal city, the birthplace and the monument of the Cæsars.

5. We will take an opportunity to look in at the Sistine chapel, on Palm Sunday. His holiness the Pope enters, and takes his throne. He is dressed in a robe of gold and scarlet. The cardinals enter with him, arrayed in garments that resemble carved gold. Each kisses the Pope's hand, and after some little chanting and singing, two palm branches, seven or eight feet in length, are brought to the Pope; who, after raising over them a cloud of incense, bestows his benediction upon

4. Distant prospect? 5. Mention the contents of this paragraph

them. Then a great number of small palm branches are brought, and one is presented to every cardinal as he mounts the throne. Each kisses the Pope's hand and the palm, and retires. Then follow the archbishops, who kiss the Pope's hand and toe; followed by the inferior members of the clergy, who are only allowed to kiss his toe.

6. The higher officers of the church having thus been provided with palms, each of the lower officers receives a branch of olive, to which, as well as to the palms, a cross is suspended. At length, the procession is drawn up in order to move. At the close of the procession, the Pope is borne on men's shoulders, in a chair of state, under a crimson canopy. After moving round a hall behind the chapel, the procession returns, and finds the gates closed upon them. After chanting for a few minutes, the gates are opened, and the church officers return to their seats. Then follows a long and bustling service, and the ceremonies are concluded, by the cardinals embracing and kissing each other.

7. The Carnival is a famous festival at Rome, and we will take one peep at its gaieties, before we bid a farewell to the great city. It begins after Christmas day, and presents a succession of lively and fantastic scenes. This revelry takes place in one of the public streets.

6. Describe the progress and conclusion of the ceremonies. 7. The Carnival.

The windows and balconies are hung with rich draperies, and filled with gay spectators. Crowds of people, masked and unmasked, parade on the pavements; and two rows of carriages, close behind each other, make a continual promenade.

8. The crowd carry on a war, by pelting each other with large handfuls of what ought to be sugar plums. As these, however, are too expensive, the articles used are a kind of plaster comfits, the dust from which completely whitens the garments of the combatants.

9. Every day of the masquerade, the scene becomes more and more crowded, and animated. On the last, the number of the masks is much increased, the skirmishes of sweatmeats and lime dust become vastly spirited, and the shouts of joy and revelry almost exceed description. The revel ends with *extinguishing* the Carnival just before dark, when all the masks appear with lighted tapers, each striving to blow out his neighbor's candle, and to keep in his own. The whole of this is amusing in the highest degree.

10. In former times, the masking of the Carnival used to be much more splendid than it is at present. Oriental kings, followed by trains of slaves; cars of victory, with laurel-crowned heroes; Roman processions; and triumphant Bacchus, with his crew of Fauns and drunken

8. War of Comfits? 9. Description of the Carnival? 10. What is said of masking?

revellers, were represented by the more wealthy and fashionable of the crowd.

11. The amusements of the Carnival are always preceded by a public execution. If any criminals are destined to capital punishment, they are reserved for this sad occasion. The object of this is to hold out to the populace the terror of the law, in order to restrain them from the commission of crimes, to which the unbounded license of the festival might otherwise lead. A number of penitents attend these unhappy men to the scaffold, in melancholy procession.

12. But we must not leave Rome, without hearing one of the *improvisatori*. These are poets who compose, and recite, verses on any subject that is given to them, with great rapidity and beauty. A crowd are gathered about one of these poets, a number of subjects are sealed and thrown into a vase, he takes one of them, and, after waiting a few minutes to collect himself, he pours forth strains of fervent and rich poetry, which chain the company in admiration to the spot.

13. And now farewell to the Eternal City! Farewell to the beautiful lands, which are covered with such magnificent monuments of art, and blessed with such profuse bounties of nature! We will go back to the humble and unpretending homes of our own country, and to the

stubborn soil, which yields its harvest only to the hand of laborious industry. We will return, without a sigh or the splendor we have left; because we return to happy firesides, and to a virtuous people.

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